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THE BANQUET OF DUN NA N-GEDH,

AND

THE BATTLE OF MAGH RATH,

AN ANCIENT HISTORICAL TALE.

NOW FIRST PUBLISHED,
FROM A MANUSCRIPT IN THE LIBRARY OF TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN,
WITH A TRANSLATION AND NOTES,
BY
JOHN O'DONOVAN.



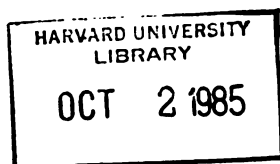
DUBLIN:
FOR THE IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS,
BY M. H. GILL.

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.



THE following historical tale is now, for the first time, translated and printed. The text has been, for the most part, obtained from a vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin (H. 2. 16.), a compilation of the fifteenth century, but the name of the author or transcriber does not appear. Of this MS. it originally occupied upwards of eleven closely written and very large leaves, of which one is unfortunately lost: the deficiency has been supplied from a paper copy, No. 60, in the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, Dublin, which was made in 1721-2, by Tomaltach Mac Morissy, for James Tyrrell. This paper copy was corrected by Peter Connell, or O'Connell, a very good Irish scholar (author of the best Irish Dictionary extant, though never published*), who has explained many difficult words in the margin, of which explanations the Editor has in many cases availed himself. This paper copy was indeed very useful throughout, inasmuch as it gives in most instances the modern orthography, and thus throws light on many obsolete words and phrases strangely spelled in the vellum copy. The Editor has not
been

* It exists in MS. in the British Museum, and a copy of it, in two large volumes folio, recently made by the liberality of the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, is preserved in their valuable Library.

been able to procure access to a third copy, which he regrets, as there are still some defects which cannot be supplied, and a few obscurities in the text which he has been unable to remove. The necessity of collating several copies of ancient productions of this nature has been felt by all Editors, as well of the ancient classic authors as of the works of the writers of the middle ages. But Irish MSS. are often so carelessly transcribed, many of them being uncollated transcripts of older MSS., that it is especially unsafe to rely on the text of a single copy. The Editor has found, on comparing different MSS. of the same ancient Irish tract, that the variations are often so considerable, as to render it necessary to compare at least three copies, made from different sources, before one can be certain that he has the true original reading. On this subject the venerable Charles O'Connor, of Belanagare, who was extensively acquainted with ancient Irish MSS., writes as follows, in a letter to his friend the Chevalier Thomas O'Gorman, dated May 31st, 1783, of which the original is in the possession of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, of Dublin :

“I approve greatly of your intention to get our Annals and other historical documents translated. But if not undertaken by a man who has a critical knowledge of the phraseology, with the changes made therein, from the sixth to the tenth century, the sense will be frequently mistaken, and a bad translation will be worse than none at all : even a publication of the Irish text would require the collation of the several MSS. for restoring the original reading and correcting the blunders of ignorant transcribers.”

It appears from the Stowe Catalogue that there is a good copy of the *Battle of Magh Rath* in the Library of his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, at Stowe^b, but the Editor has not had access to it.

There

^b Application was made to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham for a loan of this MS. ; but his Grace's rules do not permit any MS. to leave his Library : and the

There was another copy in the Book of Fermoy, as appears from extracts in the possession of the Editor, but this Book, which was in the collection of the Chevalier O'Gorman towards the close of the last century, has since been carried out of Ireland, and the Editor has been unable to discover into what hands it has fallen. He has been, therefore, under the necessity of publishing the present work from the two MSS. above referred to, preferring the text of the vellum copy throughout, except where it is obviously defective, in which cases he has supplied its deficiencies from the paper copy.

This historical tale consists of two parts, of which the former is prefatory to the latter, and probably written at a later period. The first part is entitled *Fleadh Duin na n-Gedh*, i. e. the Banquet of Dun na n-Gedh, and the second *Cath Muighe Rath*, i. e. Battle of Magh Rath or Moira; the two parts have evidently been the work of different hands, as the marked difference of style and language indicates. The first is simpler, plainer, and more natural in its style, and less interrupted by flights of bombast; but the name of the author of either part does not appear.

The Battle of Magh Rath, as will be presently shown, was fought in the year 637, and it would seem certain, from various quotations given throughout the tale, that there were formerly extant several accounts of it more ancient, and perhaps more historically faithful, than the present. In the form in which it is now published, it is evidently interpolated with fables, from the numerous pieces in prose and verse, to which the battle, which was one of the most famous ever fought in Ireland, naturally gave rise.

Though the language of the original appears very ancient, and is undoubtedly drawn from ancient authorities, still the Editor is of opinion

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funds of the Society are not as yet sufficient to enable the Council to send a com-	petent Irish scholar into England for the purpose of making collations.
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opinion that the present version of it is not older than the latter end of the twelfth century, or immediately after the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland. This opinion he has formed from the fact, that Congal Claen, King of Ulidia, is called Earl (Iarla) of Ulster (see pp. 198, 199), a title which the writer would not, in all probability, have used, if he had lived before the time of John De Courcey, the first person that ever bore the style of Earl of Ulster in Ireland. This fact will probably satisfy most readers. But although we have no evidence from any real authority that the word *Earl* was ever used as a title among the Irish, it may be urged by those who wish to argue for the antiquity of the tale, that the word *Earl*, which is certainly of Teutonic origin, might have been introduced into Ireland in the eighth century by the Danes, and that, therefore, an Irish writer of the eighth or ninth century, whose object was to use as great a variety of terms and epithets as possible, might be tempted to borrow the term *Iarla* from the Danes, although it had never at that time been adopted as a title by the Irish. This argument may to some look plausible, but the Editor does not feel that it is sufficient to justify us in assigning a higher antiquity to the work in its present form than the twelfth century.

The mention of shining coats of mail (luípeć) also tends to the same conclusion (see pp. 192, 193); for it is the universal opinion of antiquaries,—an opinion not yet disproved,—that the ancient Irish had no general use of mail armour before the twelfth century. To this, however, it may also be objected, that the Danes unquestionably had mail armour in fighting against the Irish, and that some of the Irish kings and chieftains adopted the custom from them in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries; that it is natural, therefore, to suppose that an Irish writer, in the ninth or tenth century, whose object was to magnify the military power and skill of a favourite monarch, the progenitor of a powerful race whom he wished to flatter, would as-

cribe

cribe to him the possession and use of all the military weapons he had ever seen in his own time; and if this be admitted, it could be argued that the Romance now published might have been written before the English invasion.

But the answer to all such reasonings is, that the Tale was unquestionably intended to flatter the descendants of its hero, King Domhnall, grandson of Ainmire, while his race were in full power in the north of Ireland; and, therefore, that its author must have lived before the year 1197, when Flaithbhertach O'Muldory, the last chief of Tirconnell of this monarch's family, died. How long before that year the date of this composition should be placed cannot now be well ascertained, but when the whole case is duly weighed, it will be seen that it could never have been written after the extinction of the race of the monarch, on whom the exploits described reflect so much glory.

With respect to the style of this tale, it must be acknowledged that it belongs to an age when classical strength, simplicity, and purity had given way to tautology and turgidity. As we have already observed, it is loaded with superfluous epithets, many of them introduced to form a string of alliterations, which, instead of perfecting the image or rounding the period, "with proper words in proper places," often have the effect of bewildering the mind, amidst a chaos of adjectives, chosen only because they begin with the same letter, or a string of synonymous nouns, one or two of which would have sufficiently expressed the sense. This kind of style was much admired by some Irish writers of the last century, and even in the beginning of the present the Rev. Paul O'Brien, in his *Irish Grammar* (pp. 70-72), has expressed his high admiration of it, in his explanation of Complex Adjectives; his words may be here quoted, as containing a good explanation of the nature of the style in which the *Battle of Magh Rath* has been written.

“ OF COMPLEX ADJECTIVES.

“ First,—Of the Adjective compounded with the Substantive.

“ When an Adjective is thus formed, if it precede the Substantive, it conveys a more forcible meaning than if it followed ; as *feap ceann-epéan*, a headstrong man ; *feap epéan-ceannaç*, a resolute man, &c. In this last the former Substantive becomes an Adjective, as in the English heart-broken and broken-hearted, &c.

“ Secondly,—Of Simple Adjectives compounded with Impersonal Possessives.

“ In forming these, the simple precedes the possessive ; as *péalc glan-foilpeac*, a bright-shining star ; *glóp binn-çuçac*, a sweet-sounding voice, &c. Such Adjectives involve two Substantives, which then become Adjectives, and may be termed,

“ Thirdly,—Adjectives compounded of Adjectives ; thus, *oioçe glan-péalc-foilpeac*, a bright star-shining night ; *feap binn-glóp-çuçac*, a sweet sounding-voiced man^c. These are again compounded, and become,

“ Fourthly,—Adjectives compounded of compound Adjectives ; as *óig-feap çpu-aig-þinn-foç-þain-ðuac-þcaineoçac*, a soft-silken-wide-spreading-ringleting-fair-haired youth, i. e. the youth of soft-silken-wide-spreading, ringleting fair hair^c. Adjectives of this description have the Substantive in their first syllable ; for if it be placed in the last syllable, the whole compound becomes an expressive Substantive ; as,

“ Fifthly,—*Ç epéan-ápo-þluaç-çac-çcannþaláir*, thou mighty ruler of lofty embattled chiefs^c.

“ Sixthly,—Of Participial Adjectives, compounded of compound Substantives, compounded of compound Adjectives. In these the Epic Bards delighted, magnifying the exploits of their heroes beyond measure, and inspiring their hearers with a thirst for military glory, emulation of feats, and contempt of death. Of which the following soliloquy of *Þriþþoç*, over the grave of his brother *Çrçmþ*, gives a sufficient example :

Seapc þeipce mo çþoioðe þuið liaç çú Çrçmþ !
Ceo çleóðac mo þoçç çú, a ðeapþráçair.
Ç bile ofoion ap mlið a o-çeapmáil !
Mo núair naç þ-þuilir nop þia a ç-comóðál,
Çiç laóçþaið léna çpeacçþiað ip-çlann.

Ç

^c “ M'Grath's History of the Wars of Thomond abounds with these compound Adjectives ; but they are seldom used except in poetry or poetic style.”—Notes to the Grammar, p. 205.

Α φάρτα υαίτη, μο μεοδαιν-χρεαδ ιρ καοιμ λιομ.
 Σε νεοράδ μέ ερό-λιοντα εριον ορε,
 Ειρορε πε τρέιχτε μο αονδραταρ.

‘Ὁ δέσποδ ρε διαν-λυσ-ἐρόδατε διαν-ἐνάμ-ἐργαρετὰ ρρσιτ-λέιμ, ρίξδα-
 ράτ ρανταά-ρυσγ-μάρδεατ ρρσιρ-λεσαρετὰ, σιοόργαρετὰ ἐσγνιαρλαμίλ ρο-ἐριγ-
 εαά, ζευρ-νάιμδεαμίλ, αρσ-αιγεαταά, νείμ-έιμ ρεσιλ-ργαεαζαά ρρσιλ-δέαταρετὰ
 σελδ-ζραιν-σλοό-σόσμαρετὰ ριρ-δάρ-νευλαμίλ, ρεοδσ ρυιτεαά, λεοίμαν-δρα-
 ζαργ-νεαρ-εαάτηαρ, μαρ ρευδ-δυννε-ρλειδ-έυννε-ζαρδ-ζυαρεά, α μεοσάνερσ-
 εϊοναλ-δσρδ-ρυιτεαά να λαό μεαρ, &c.’

"TRANSLATION.

“Argmhor ! Love of the love of my heart, beneath this stone thou liest ! A mist of sorrow to mine Eyes thou art, my Brother ! Stern bulwark of our heroes in battle ! Woe is me, no longer art thou sharer of the Spoils among the Chiefs of Lena, defeating the Sons of Anger. Thou too, alas ! his grassy mansion, art dear to me,—Though my aged-bursting-breast with tearful eye bend over thee, hearken thou to the mighty deeds of my only Brother—Who with fleet-valiant-bone-crushing Arm.—Torrent-like-rapid, dartingly-eager, mortal his strides ; dauntless, dealing death around ; invincible, fierce, vigorous, active, hostile, courageous, intrepid, rending, hewing, slaughtering, deforming forms and features ; shaded with clouds of certain death. Sanguine as the Hawk of prey ; furious as the resistless-strongframed-blood-thirsty Lion ; impetuous as the boisterous-hoarse-foaming-bold-bursting-broad-mountain billows ; would rush through close-thronged crowds of enraged warriors, &c.”

The same writer, treating of the degrees of comparison, gives us the following account of them, which, though not altogether correct, conveys a strong idea of what he considered bardic eloquence :

“ There are in common Irish but the three degrees of comparison found in all other Languages ; but the Bards, in the glow of poetic rapture, passed the ordinary bounds, and upon the common superlative, which their heated imaginations made the positive degree, raised a second comparative and superlative ; and on the second also raised a third comparative and superlative ; from an irregular but noble effort to bring the Language to a level with their lofty conceptions ; which uncommon mode of expressing their effusions, though it may seem romantic to others, the natives regarded as a source of peculiar beauty, and a high poetic embellishment to their language.”—pp. 60, 61.

Another writer, who has done much to illustrate the legendary

lore of Ireland, has noticed this turgidity of style, in the following words, from which it will be seen that the modern Irish scholars with whom he conversed admired it as much as the bards of the middle ages:

“The overabundant use of epithet is a striking peculiarity of most compositions in the Irish language: by some writers this has been ascribed to the nature and structure of the language; by others to the taste of the people. In a conversation which I once had with some Irish scholars, I well remember one of them stepping forward in the formidable gesture of an excited orator, and addressing me in an exalted tone of voice in defence of epithets. ‘These epithets,’ said he to me, with outstretched arm, ‘are numerous in the original Irish, because they are enlivening and expressive, and are introduced by historians to decorate their histories, and to raise the passions of the reader. Thus were the youth at once instructed in the grand records of their lofty nation,—in eloquence of style,—and in the sublimity of composition^d.’”

At what period this style was first introduced into Ireland, or whence it was originally derived, would now be difficult to ascertain. The oldest specimen known to the Editor, of a historical tale, of a similar character with the present, is the Romance called *Tain Bo Cuailgne*, which is an account of the seven years’ war carried on between Connaught and Ulster in the first century. It is said to have been written in the seventh century; but it is not nearly so much loaded with epithets as the present story. From this, and the fact that the oldest specimens of Irish composition remaining, such as the fragments in the Book of Armagh, and in the *Liber Hymnorum*, and the older Irish lives of St. Patrick, and other saints of the primitive Irish Church, are all written in a narrative remarkably plain and simple; it would appear that this very turgid style was introduced into Irish literature in the ninth or tenth century, but whence the model was derived is not so easy to conjecture. The Arabians and other oriental nations had many compositions of this kind, but it does not appear that the Irish had any acquaintance with their literature at so early

^d Researches in the South of Ireland, by T. Crofton Croker, pp. 334, 335.

early a period. Several specimens of this style of composition, written by the celebrated Shane O'Dugan, who died in 1372, are to be found in the Book of Hy-Many, but the most elaborate and celebrated work in this style is that entitled *Caithreim Toirdhealbhagh*, i. e. The Triumphs of Turlogh [O'Brien], written in the year 1459, by John, son of Rory Magrath, chief historian of Thomond. Of this work, which comprises the History of Thomond for two centuries, there are extant in Dublin several paper copies; it was translated, towards the close of the last century, by Theophilus O'Flanagan, assisted by Peter Connell, but was never published. Its style far exceeds that of the present story, in the superabundant use of epithets, and in extravagance of conception and description, as may appear from the following extract, which is a description of Donogh Mac Namara, chief of Clann Cuilen, in Thomond, harnessing himself for battle :

" A. D. 1309. — 'D' aicéle na h-ima-gallma rin Donnchaíó pe n-a óeag-muineir, no eiriúg go h-úirneirneac, orgharóa ó'a eioeasó fein 'ran ionasó rin. Agur tugasó ar ó-eur a uapaleioe ó'a ionnraighió, .i. cotun baingean, óeag-cúmea, oluie-iomaipeac, óin-eirighaeac, óearg-anraóac, óef-óiumar-bláie, óe-alb-nuaóac, óae-óroióearg, óioghraie, agur óo óuir uime go h-éaragao an ó-eioeasó óir-óúmracó rin, agur íre coim-fao óo óion a óeag-óotun Donnchaíó, .i. o ióctar a máos-óbrághao mín-óorera, go mullaó a ghun garta, ghleigil, óoir; agur óo gabaó uime-rion ar uaótar an ionuir rin, lúirioó lán-óreaóraó, luib-ghléigeal, leaóar-óruinn, áóbal, raipring, or-óór-óac, óiorraio, óruimneac, oluie-óliaeac, óe-íx-íre, bláie, buan-íocair, óeip-óuó, óraioib-ghic, óeip-óiaólae, ruaié-

" After that harangue of Donogh to his brave people he arose on the spot with courage and activity to clothe himself in shining armour. His noble garment was first brought to him, viz., a strong, well-formed, close-ridged, defensively-furrowed, terrific, neat-bordered, new-made, and scarlet-red cassock of fidelity; he expertly put on that gold-bordered garment [or cotun] which covered him as far as from the lower part of his soft, fine, red-white neck, to the upper part of his expert, snow-white, round-knotted knee. Over that mantle he put on a full-strong, white-topped, wide-round, gold-bordered, straight, and parti-coloured coat of mail, well-fitting, and ornamented with many curious devices of exquisite workmanship. He put on a beautiful, narrow, thick, and saffron-coloured belt of war, embellished with

νῖξ, ῥῥῖρ-ḡeal, ῥο-ḡrḡáúac. Ἀḡyup ῥο ḡab
 caité-épiop caoil-tiug, ciuḡmar-ḡláit, cri-
 oc-niamḡta, cloḡb-ḡúclac, ceannḡpac-órhoa,
 ḡo n-a lann lúit-luḡtmar, cpiuinn-ḡeaó-
 nac, ceipre-imleac, acḡt mun ap ba aiob-
 riḡe a áipoe op a ḡeaḡanaiḡb, aḡyup oo
 ceannapap an cpiop corp, ceapre-ḡlaité,
 cpiuinn-ḡaolceannaḡc ceana ῥoin tap a
 éat-lúiriḡ, aḡyup eannaḡc iomḡpaḡa, ḡao-
 ḡar-ḡorm, iapann-ḡlan tpein-ḡeannaḡc,
 caoiḡb-leatḡan, tpeap-uplam, bḡn-éúlac,
 blac-maiveac, piapamail, claiḡr-ḡeioḡ,
 caoil-tiug, ceapre-ῥoirḡneamḡac, a ḡ-cean-
 gal an épeapa blait-ḡeioḡ, bpeac-ḡataḡc
 rin; aḡyup oo ḡabab ῥḡabal féit-ḡeal,
 ḡaiḡrriḡḡ-ḡeioḡ, ḡionn-ḡpóiḡtḡioḡ, ḡait-ḡne-
 apac, ḡeioḡm-laiop, riḡte, uime tap uac-
 tap a op-luiriḡe; aḡyup oo ḡab cloḡat
 clap-ḡaingean, ciuḡmar-cpiuinn, corp-
 ceapre-ḡlaité, coinnioll-morḡa, cpaob-
 éaiḡḡneac, cian-ḡulaing, ḡa n-a ceann-
 baiḡioḡ; aḡyup oo ḡabapap a cloiḡioḡm
 colḡoa, clap-leitḡean, claiḡr-leitḡeac,
 cian-aiḡiḡneac, corpḡeapac, caité-minic,
 lán-ḡpuailleac, cpiop-opḡa, cpiop-amlac
 cuiḡe, ḡup éeannapape ḡo caom-ac-
 ḡaiḡio tap a éaob; aḡyup oo ḡabapap
 a ḡa ḡapca, ḡer-ḡaobḡpac, ḡorm-ḡataḡc,
 ḡner-miolla, iona ḡlaic ḡeip, ḡa comap
 a oiubḡaiḡtḡe; aḡyup éappaiḡ ḡe a épaioḡ-
 ioḡ cpann-aḡḡal, cpiob-ḡaingean, colḡ-
 oḡioḡc, ceoi-neimḡneac comḡnaiḡ cuiḡe
 iona éle-láim o'á oingḡe, aḡyup o'á oian-
 bualaḡ. Ἀḡyup niop ḡeaz copann na
 tpein-ḡeaḡnac'ḡanteḡait rin, aḡ cuiḡḡeac
 a ḡ-cotun, cpaob-éopceḡa, aḡyup a luip-
 ioḡ loimḡor-ḡlan, aḡyup a lann lapap-
 mor, aḡyup a ḡ-cpaioḡioḡ cuapre-aioḡeail;

with clasps and buckles, set with precious
 stones, and hung with golden tassels; to
 this belt was hung his active and trusty
 lance, regularly cased in a tubic sheath,
 but that it was somewhat greater in
 height than the height of the sheath; he
 squeezed the brilliant, gilt, and starry
 belt about the coat of mail; and a long,
 blue-edged, bright-steeld, sharp-pointed,
 broad-sided, active, white-backed, half-
 polished, monstrous, smooth-bladed, small-
 thick, and well-fashioned dagger was fixed
 in the tie of that embroidered and parti-
 coloured belt; a white-embroidered, full-
 wide, strong, and well-wove hood (ḡḡabal)
 was put on him over his golden mail; he
 himself laid on his head a strong-
 cased, spherical-towering, polished-shining,
 branch-engraved, long-enduring helmet; he
 took his edged, smooth-bladed, letter-
 graved, destructive, sharp-pointed, fight-
 taming, sheathed, gold-guarded and girded
 sword which he tied fast in haste to his
 side; he took his expert, keen-pointed,
 blue-coloured, and neat-engraved dart in
 his active right hand, in order to cast it at
 the valiant troops, his enemies; and last,
 he took his vast-clubbed, strong-eyed,
 straight-lanced, fierce-smoking, and usual
 spear in his left, pushing and smiting
 therewith. Great was the tumult of the
 army then, seeking for their purple-
 branched cassocks, brilliant mails, blazing
 swords, and spears of ample circumference,
 restraining their steeds backward by the
 reins, as not obedient to the guidance
 of their riders, choosing their arms, the
 young adhering, for their beauty, to their
 golden

αγυρ αγ αεκυρ α n-eac cap α n-air ο'ά
n-apadail, o nac rail α n-air pe h-iom-
gabail α o-tairig, αγ τογα na o-ten-
arm, αγυρ α n-ogdail αγ adpad ap, α n-
aille, ο'ά n-ór-armail, ocyr na h-ogla-
ag railgead na rean-arm ο'ά n-oeap-
natar uicior α n-impearmail po minic
poime rin; αγυρ na mileo αγ mion-fua-
geal na meirgead rir na mor-épann-
ail, αγυρ na h-oncoin 'gá g-ciumar-
óaingnugad ap na cpairioáail."

golden arms, and the old aiming at the
ancient arms with which they often before
acted great deeds in battle,—the soldiers
closely sewing their ensigns to their vast
poles, and fastening their colours by the
borders to the lofty poles of their spears*."

The tale, now for the first time printed and translated, is founded on more ancient documents relating to the Battle of Magh Rath, as appears from various quotations which it contains; but it is obvious that the writer, not finding a sufficient number of characters recorded by history, was under the necessity of coining some names to answer his purpose, such as Eochaidh Aingces, king of Britain, Daire Mac Dornmhar, king of France, &c., but the greater number of his characters were real historical personages. Although, therefore, this tale cannot be regarded as a purely historical document, still it is very curious and valuable as a genuine specimen of an ancient Irish story founded on history, and unquestionably written at a period when the Irish language was in its greatest purity; it is also useful as containing many references to ancient territories, tribes, customs, notions, and superstitions which existed among the ancient Irish before the introduction of English manners; and it is particularly interesting to the lover of Irish literature as containing a large stock of military and other technical terms, and preserving several idioms of the ancient Irish language, which are now, and for some centuries have been, obsolete. A general and just complaint among the lovers of Irish lore

* This translation, made towards the close of the last century, by O'Flanagan and Peter O'Connell, is preserved in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy.

lore has long been, that there is no perfect work, of an antiquity higher than the days of Keating, accessible to the student of our language; it is to be hoped, therefore, that the publication of the original text of this ancient story will in some measure remove this complaint. It will, at least, rescue from oblivion and preserve from final destruction a considerable portion of the ancient language of Ireland, which must have been inevitably lost if not now preserved while the language is still living, and while the power of unfolding its idioms and explaining its obsolete terms yet remains.

Compositions of this nature were constantly recited by the poets before the Irish kings and chieftains at their public fairs and assemblies, for the purpose of inspiring the people with a thirst for military glory. This fact is distinctly stated in the account of the celebrated fair of Carman (now Wexford), preserved in the work called *Dinnsenchus*, or History of Remarkable Places; and it is also recorded in a vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin (H. 3. 17. p. 797.), that the four higher orders of the poets, namely, the Ollamh, Anruth, Cli, and Cano, were obliged to have seven times fifty *chief stories* and twice fifty *sub-stories* to repeat for kings and chieftains. The subjects of the chief stories were demolitions, cattle-spoils, courtships, battles, caves, voyages, tragedies, feasts, sieges, adventures, elopements, and plunders. The particular titles of these stories are given in the MS. referred to, but it would lead us too far from our present purpose to insert them here.

Those readers who have studied ancient history only through the medium of modern popular books, will no doubt be surprised at the style and spirit of the present production, and particularly at the extraordinary incidents introduced into it as historical facts. But we should consider that those modern writers whose works we read for a knowledge of ancient history, must have waded through many fabulous tracts before they were able to separate truth from fable,
and

and that the statements they give as true ancient history are, after all, no more than their own inferences drawn, in many instances, from the half historical, half fabulous works of the ancients. In the middle ages no story was acceptable to the taste of the day without the assistance of some marvellous or miraculous incidents, which, in those all-believing times, formed the life and soul of every narrative. At that period the Irish people, and every people, believed in preternatural occurrences wrought by magic, by charms, and particularly by distinguished saints before and after their deaths, as firmly as their descendants now believe in the wonders wrought by natural science; and it should not be expected that any lengthened story could have been written in that age without the introduction into it of some of those marvellous incidents which were so often reported and so eagerly received. The modern reader should also consider, that all the literature of the middle ages is tinged with narratives of miraculous occurrences, and that writers then gave interest to their subjects by mixing up with the real incidents of life, accounts of supernatural events produced by saints, witches, or demons, in the same way as modern novelists enchant their readers by delineating the charms and natural magic of real life. The novels of Sir Walter Scott may also be referred to as a proof that the marvellous has not even yet lost its attractions, although perhaps it may require his master hand to present the legends and mythology of our ancestors in such a dress as to give pleasure to modern fastidiousness.

In using the productions of the writers of the middle ages as historical monuments, we should be very guarded in selecting what to believe, and more particularly perhaps, what to reject: we are no doubt more ready to discredit what may be really true than to believe any fable; but we should not reject all the incidents mentioned in ancient writers merely because we find them mixed up with the miraculous. For, granting that such writers may have been imposed

upon by the reports of others, or by the fanciful temperament of their own minds, as far as regards preternatural occurrences, it does not therefore follow that their testimony is to be rejected on the manners and customs of their own times, or on facts which were of every day occurrence, and which it required no philosophy or perfect acquaintance with the laws of nature to be able to comprehend and to describe.

That the Battle of Magh Rath was a real historical occurrence and no bardic fiction, cannot for a moment be doubted. It is referred to by Adamnan, the eighth abbot of Iona, who was thirteen years old when it was fought. In the fifth chapter of the third book of his *Life of St. Columba*, speaking of the prophecy which that saint delivered to Aidan, he writes as follows :

“Hoc autem vaticinium temporibus nostris completum est in Bello *Rath*, Domnallo Brecco, nepote Aidani, sine causa vastante provinciam Domnill nepotis Ainmi-rech : et a die illa, usque hodie adhuc in proclivo sunt ab extraneis, quod suspiria doloris pectori incutit.”

The event is also recorded by the very accurate annalist, Tighernach, under the year 637, in the following words :

“A. D. 637.—Caé Muíge Rath n-Domnall, mac Aedá, ocup nia macaib Aedá Sláine, reo Domnall pegnauit Temoriam in illo tempore, in quo cecioit Congal Caech, n Ulaó, ocup Faelan, cum multis nobilibus; in quo cecioit Suibhne, mac Colman Cuar.”

“A. D. 637.—The Battle of Magh Rath was fought by Domhnall, son of Aedh, and by the sons of Aedh Slaine (but Domhnall at this time ruled Temoria), in which fell Congal Caech, king of Uladh, and Faelan, with many nobles; and in which fell Suibhne, the son of Colman Cuar.”

This Suibhne, the son of Colman Cuar, was prince of Dalaradia, and is said to have fled panic-stricken from this battle, and to have spent many years afterwards in a state of lunacy, roving from place to place until he was murdered at Tigh Moling (now St. Mullin's, in the present county of Carlow), by St. Moling's swine-herd.—See Note ⁹, pp. 236, 237.

The

The battle is also mentioned in the *Chronicon Scotorum*, at the year 636, as follows :

"A. D. 636.—Cath Muirge Raē n-Doimnall, mac Aeōa, ocuf n-ia macaib Aeōa Slaine, feo Doimnall, mac Aeōa pegnauit Temoriam in illo tempore, in quo cecidit Congal Caech, n- Ulaō, ocuf Faelcu, mac Airmeadhach, i b-ppie-ghuin, n- Miōe cum multar nobilibus."

"A. D. 636.—The Battle of Magh Rath, by Domhnall, son of Aedh, and by the sons of Aedh Slaine (but Domhnall, son of Aedh, ruled Temoria, at that time); in which fell in the thick of the fight Congal Caech, king of Uladh, and Faelchu, son of Airmeadhach, king of Meath, with many nobles."

"An account of the battle is also given in the Annals of the Four Masters (but incorrectly entered under the year 634), as follows :

"A. D. 634.—Cath Máirge Rath n-Doimnall, mac Aeōa, ocuf n-ia macaib Aeōa Slaine, for Congal Claon, mac Scanoláin, n- Ulaō, ou i b-topchaip Congal, n- Ulaō, ocuf alimupcaib map-aon n-ir."

"A. D. 634.—The Battle of Magh Rath, fought by Domhnall, son of Aodh, and the sons of Aodh Slaine, against Congal Claon, son of Scanlan, king of Uladh, in which Congal, king of Uladh, and many foreigners along with him, were slain."

Thus translated by Colgan, in note (9) on the fifth chapter of the third book of Adamnan's Life of Columba :

"Anno sexcentesimo trigesimo quarto, et Domnaldi Regis Undecimo; prælium de Magh Rath (id est de Campo Rath) in Ultoniâ, conseritur per Domnaldum filium Aidi, filii Ainmirechi, Hiberniæ regem, et filiis Aidi Slaine, contra Congalium Claon, Scandalii filium, Regem Ultoniæ, et multas transmarinas gentes ei assistentes; in quo Congalius et multi ex transmarinis occubuerunt."

After this Colgan states that he had read a history of this battle, but that he had not a copy of it by him at the time that he was writing. His words are :

"In historia hujus belli seu prælij, (quam sæpius legi, et nunc ad manum non habeo,) legitur prædictus Congalius, (anno 624, in alio proelio de *Dun-celtherne* per eundem Domnallum superatus, et in Albionem relegatus,) ex Scotis Albiensibus, Pictis, Anglo-Saxonibus et Britonibus collectum, ingentem exercitum duxisse contra Regem Domnaldum; et postquam per septem dies per totidem conflictus et alternas victorias dubio Marte acerrimè dimicatum esset; tandem victoriam Regi Domnaldo

cessisse, interfecto Congalio, et transmarinis copiis atrociter cæsis. Cum ergo locus et tempus belli hujus satis correspondeant, videtur eo tempore facta illa vastatio quam suo tempore factam esse indicat Adamnanus. Nam Adamnanus (iuxta iam dicta) anno 624 natus agebat annum decimum, vel undecimum tempore illius prælii anno 634 gesti."

It is highly probable that Colgan here refers to the account of the Battle of Magh Rath now printed and translated.

The venerable Charles O'Connor of Belanagare has taken so accurate a view of the political causes and effects of this battle, that the Editor is tempted to present the reader with the entire of what he has written on the subject :

"The Treachery of Conall Guthbinn gave the Nation an utter Dislike to the South *Hy-Nialls*. The North *Hy-Nialls* obtained the Throne, and did not deserve such a preference. *Malcoba*, a pious Prince, was cut off by his Successor *Subney Meann*: He, in Turn, by *Congal Claon*, a Prince of the *Rudrician* Race of *Ulad*, the determined Enemy of his Family. *Domnall*, the Brother of *Malcoba*, and son of *Aodh*, the son of *Ainmirey*, ascended the Throne, and began his Administration with an Act of extreme Justice; that of taking Vengeance on the murderer of his Predecessor. *Congal Claon* he defeated in the Battle of *Dunkehern*, and obliged him to fly into *Britain*; the common Asylum of the domestic Mal-contents.

"*CONGAL CLAON* remained nine Years in Exile: And as this Parricide bid fair for the Destruction of his native Country, he merits particular notice in History. In Power he possessed some Virtues, and in adversity wore the Semblance of all. Although an Outcast in a foreign Country, divided by different Languages and Interests, he retained a Dignity of Conduct which often throws a Lustre about Adversity itself. He kept up his Party at Home, who (by defeating *Connad Kerr*, King of the *Albanian Scots*, and Lord of the Irish *Dalriads*) supported his interests. Among Strangers, he had the Iniquity of his Conduct to justify, and the more cruel Slights, which persecute unfortunate Princes, to manage: He did the one with Plausibility; he conquered the other with Patience and Dignity. Able, active, perseverant; no ill Fortune could depress his Spirits, no Disappointment fatigue his Ambition. He exerted every Talent which could win Esteem from the Great, and every Art which could turn that Esteem to his own Advantage: At Home, formidable to his Enemies, popular among his friends; Abroad, brave without Insolence; flexible without Meanness; he gave the Nation a very important Advantage over him; *That* of guarding against the Greatness of his Genius and of uniting against him, although otherwise much divided within
itself.

itself. This he balanced, by reconciling the most opposite Interests in *Britain*, when his cause became an Object of Consideration. *Saxons, Britons, Albanian Scots*, and *Picts*, flocked to his Standard. His domestic Partizans prepared for his Reception, and he landed with Safety on the Coast of *Down*.

"DOMNALL, King of *Ireland*, was not unprepared. He had Wisdom in his Councils, and Troops, who proved a match for equally gallant Troops raised within his Kingdom, and for those of the four Nations who joined them. He immediately encamped near the Enemy at *Moyrath*, and began as bloody a battle as can be found in the Records of that age: It continued with various success for six whole days, until Victory declared for the Nation on the seventh. *Congal Claon*, the soul of the Enemies' Army, was defeated and slain at the Head of the Troops of *Ulad*. The foreign Troops were soon broke with great Slaughter; and *Domnall Breac*, King of the *Albanian Scots*, hardly escaped to *Britain*, with the sorry Remains of a fine Army, which should be employed for the defence of the people he so wantonly attacked. This Contradiction to every Principle of sound Policy, was foreseen by *Columb Kille*, who laboured so much to reconcile the Interests of the *British Scots* to those of the parent Country: 'A Prediction,' says St. Adamnan, 'which was completed in our own Time, in the War of *Moyrath*; *Domnall Breac*, the Grandson of *Aidan*, having, without any Provocation, laid waste the Country of the Grandson of *Anmirey*: a Measure, which, to this Day, has obliged the *Scotish* Nation to succumb to foreign Powers, and which gives our Heart Grief, when we consider it.' This is the Account of a cotemporary Writer, who was Abbot of the Island of *Hy*. It is one of the most important Events in the *Scotish* History; and yet, through the Destruction of Records in the Time of *Edward* the First, the latter Historians of *North Britain* were Strangers to it."

"It is certain that *Ireland* was never in greater Danger, from the first Entrance of the *Scotish* Nation, than in this War raised against it by *Congal Claon*: But the civil Constitution being sound in the main, resisted the Disease, and shook it off in one great effort. In a future [? later] age the Posterity of this very People abandoned their King, their Country, and their own Independence, almost without a Show of Resistance, to a Handful of foreign Freebooters⁸."

Notwithstanding the celebrity of the monarch Domhnall, the grandson

"This Engagement, so decisive for the Nation, in the year 637, rendered *Moyrath*, ever since, famous in the *Irish Annals*. It retained [? retains] the Name down to our own Time, and was rendered memorable of late by giving a title to the present learned and worthy possessor, Sir *John Rawdon*, Earl of *Moyra*."

⁸ Dissertations on the History of *Ireland*, pp. 214 to 218. Dublin, 1766.

grandson of Airmire, and the importance of the Battle of Magh Rath in the histories of Scotland and Ireland, Mr. Moore, the latest author of the History of Ireland, does not condescend so much as to name the monarch or to notice the battle. His defence is as follows:

“ Having now allowed so long a period of Irish history to elapse without any reference whatever to the civil transactions of the country, it may naturally be expected that I should for a while digress from ecclesiastical topics, and leaving the lives of ascetic students and the dull controversies of the cloister, seek relief from the tame and monotonous level of such details in the stirring achievements of the camp, the feuds of rival chieftains, and even in the pomps and follies of a barbaric court. But the truth is, there exist in the Irish annals no materials for such digression^h !”

And again,

“ With the names of such of these princes as wielded the sceptre since my last notice of the succession, which brought its series down to A. D. 599, it is altogether unnecessary to incumber these pages, not one of them having left more than a mere name behind, and in general the record of their violent deaths being the only memorial that tells of their ever having livedⁱ. ”

Mr. Moore is confessedly unacquainted with the Irish language; and the remains of our ancient literature were, therefore, of course inaccessible to him. That great ignorance of these unexplored sources of Irish history should be found in his pages is, therefore, not surprising: but he ought to have been more conscious of his deficiencies in this respect, than to have so boldly hazarded the unqualified assertion, *that there exist in the Irish annals no materials for the civil history of the country!*

Should the Irish Archæological Society receive such support from the public as to enable them to continue their labours, the falsehood of such a statement will be abundantly manifested; and it will perhaps appear also that, notwithstanding the destruction and dispersion of so large a proportion of our ancient records, and the mutilation of those that remain by indifference or malice, there is no nation

^h History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 275.

ⁱ Ibid. p. 276.

nation of Europe that is in the possession of more copious and curious materials for the illustration of its internal history, civil and ecclesiastical, during the middle ages, than despised and neglected Ireland. "On a déjà remarqué ailleurs," say the Benedictines, quoted by Mr. Moore himself¹, "que les gens de ce pays, presque à l'extrémité du monde, avoient mieux conservé la littérature, parcequ'ils étoient moins exposés aux revolutions, que les autres parties de l'Europe."

The Editor cannot close these remarks without returning thanks to those friends who have assisted him in editing the present work, but particularly to Dr. Todd of Trinity College, and to Mr. Eugene Curry.

J. O'D.

¹ History of Ireland, vol. i. p. 277.

The first of these is the fact that the
the second is the fact that the
the third is the fact that the
the fourth is the fact that the
the fifth is the fact that the
the sixth is the fact that the
the seventh is the fact that the
the eighth is the fact that the
the ninth is the fact that the
the tenth is the fact that the



IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

AT a General Meeting of the IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, held in the Board Room of the Royal Irish Academy, Grafton-street, Dublin, on Monday, the 13th day of June, 1842,

GEORGE PETRIE, ESQ., M. R. I. A., R. H. A., in the Chair.

The Secretary opened the proceedings by reading the following REPORT of the Council, agreed upon at their Meeting of the 2nd of June :

“The Council, at the end of their year of office, are happy to be able to announce that the prospects of the Society are such as to leave but little doubt of its future success.

“They have still, however, to complain that the nobility and gentry of Ireland have not joined the Society in sufficient numbers to enable it to undertake the publication of the more voluminous and difficult of our ancient records. The total number of Members now on our books being but 241, besides thirteen, who have not yet paid their subscriptions.

“One cause of this has doubtless been, that the objects of the Society have been but little known, and where known, have been but imperfectly understood. In Ireland, where every thing is unhappily viewed, more or less, through the medium of party, it seemed to the public difficult to conceive how any Society could be formed without a leaning to one side or the other, and many persons very naturally held back until the real character of the Society should more
a fully

John J. Kelly

fully develope itself. It is evident, however, from the mere inspection of our list of Members, that these feelings have had but a partial operation ; and the Society may congratulate itself in having been one of the few successful attempts in this country to induce men to forget their differences, and unite together in the promotion of a great national undertaking.

“ In addition to this temporary cause of prejudice against the Society, it has unfortunately happened that several accidental circumstances have retarded the completion of our publications during the past year ; so that we have had, to the public, the appearance of doing nothing, and many were led to doubt whether we were in a condition to fulfil our engagements to our Members.

“ These and such like difficulties, however, which have probably kept back many who ought naturally to have joined us, must gradually be removed by the publications of the Society ; which, it is hoped, will not only effectually convince the public of the purity of our intentions, and of the possibility of carrying out our design without any party bias, but also make known the great value and interest of the historical documents which it is the object of the Society to bring to light.

“ It is necessary, however, to explain to the Society the cause of the delay that has taken place in the appearance of the volumes, which have been announced as the intended publications of the past year.

“ The idea of establishing a Society for the publication of the ancient historical and literary remains of Ireland was first seriously entertained at the close of the year 1840 ; and a Provisional Council was then formed for the purpose of ascertaining, by correspondence with the literary characters of the day, and by circulating a brief statement of the object proposed, whether a Society such as that to which we now belong would be likely to meet with support from the public.

“ Several months, however, were necessarily spent in these preliminary measures, and early in the year 1841, the Provisional Council had received promises of such respectable support, as to convince them that success was reasonably certain, and that they might safely proceed to the regular formation of the Society.

“ A Meeting was accordingly called in May, 1841, at which the fundamental laws of the Society were agreed upon, and your present Council appointed for carrying your designs into effect.

“ Up

"Up to that time, however, scarcely any preparations had been made for printing. The Provisional Council had been in a great measure occupied in the correspondence necessary for the formation of the Society: nor was it possible for them, until they had ascertained how far public support could be obtained, to enter upon the engagements necessary for the preparation of many works with a view to the future publications of the Society.

"All this, therefore, became the duty of your present Council: and they have endeavoured to make such arrangements, as they hope will ensure to the Members the regular appearance, within reasonable intervals, of the Society's books. All the works intended for the present year are in the hands of the printers, and those in progress are many of them ready for the press, as soon as the funds at the disposal of the Council will permit their being undertaken.

"The Council, in addition to the volume of Tracts, and the volume of Grace's Annals, already in the hands of the Society, have resolved that the Book of Obits of Christ-Church Cathedral, edited by the Rev. Mr. Crosthwaite, shall also be given to all who were Members in the year 1841, or who have paid the subscription for that year.

"This latter work, though far advanced, is not yet completed; and from the peculiar difficulties it presents, the necessity of the most exact and careful collation with the original, and the laborious index and notes which the Editor is preparing, and which will greatly enhance its value, its progress through the press must necessarily be slow.

"It is probable, therefore, that some of the works announced for the year 1842, will be issued before the Book of Obits is ready for delivery. But this inconvenience the Council are convinced the Society will gladly submit to, rather than run the risk of doing injustice to the Editor of a volume of such singular difficulty and interest, by any attempt to hurry its publication.

"Cormac's Glossary, which has been for some time in Mr. O'Donovan's hands, is ready for the press. But it has been held back, partly because the funds of the Society will not at present admit of its being proceeded with, and partly because there are some MSS. in England, which ought to be collated before such a work should be put forth: The collation of these MSS., however, would be attended with great expense, as it would be necessary to send over to England a competent person, and to support him during his stay in the

neighbourhood of the Libraries where the MSS. to be consulted are preserved. The Council have therefore thought it better to defer the publication of this work for the present ; and in the meantime they are engaged in such inquiries as they hope may ultimately lead to the satisfactory accomplishment of their purpose.

“The Royal Visitation Book of the Province of Armagh in 1622, has been for some time ready for the press, but as it will be a volume of some bulk, and from the quantity of tabular matter it contains, expensive in printing, it has been deferred, until the funds of the Society are increased.

“For the same reason Mr. Curry’s translations of the ancient Irish historical tales, ‘The History of the Boromean Tribute,’ and ‘The Battle of Cairn Chonail,’ have been postponed, although both are ready for the press.

“There is one other topic upon which it will be necessary to say a few words.

“The number and value of the works which have been assigned to the Members of the last and present years, very far exceed the actual means of the Society ; nor will it be possible for the Council to bring out books of equal value, in future years, unless the number of the Members be very much increased. The Council, however, have thought it better to proceed on the supposition that the full number of Members, at present limited by the Rules of the Society to 500, will ultimately be obtained, and, therefore, they have not hesitated to run the risk, in the first instance, of drawing somewhat more largely than they would be justified in doing hereafter, on the capital of the Society. They have every hope, however, that the publication of the volumes now in progress will bring in a large accession of Members to the Society ; and they would press upon the existing Members the necessity of exerting their influence with their friends for this purpose.

“It is desirable to have it made known, that Members now joining the Society can obtain the books for the year 1841, on paying the subscription of One Pound for that year ; a privilege which the Council have allowed to such Members as have joined since the last annual Meeting, and which they would recommend to continue for the present year. However, they are of opinion that hereafter, the books of past years, if any should remain, ought to be sold to new Members at an advanced price, to be determined by the Council for the time being.

“ Since

“Since the appearance of our first publication, the following noblemen and gentlemen have joined the Society :

The Right Hon. Lord Eliot.	Colman M. O’Loughlan, Esq.
The Right Hon. Lord Albert Conyngham.	William Hughes, Esq.
Sir Montague L. Chapman, Bart.	Robert Ewing, Esq.
Sir Aubrey De Vere, Bart.	Rev. Matthew Kelly.
John Ynyr Burges, Esq.	James W. Cusack, Esq., M. D.
Thomas Fortescue, Esq.	Thomas Kane, Esq., M. D. (for the Limerick Institution).
Rev. James Kennedy Bailie, D. D.	Edward Wilmot Chetwode, Esq.
Clement Ferguson, Esq.	Rev. John N. Traherne.
Thomas Hutton, Esq.	Edward Magrath, Esq. (for the Athenæum Club, London).
Rev. James Graves.	Colonel Birch.
Rev. Classon Porter.	William Curry, Jun., Esq.
Rev. Charles Grogan.	
Samuel Græme Fenton, Esq.	

“The name of William Torrens M’Cullagh, Esq., was omitted, by an accident, in the list of original Members, published with the last Report ; and the name of John Low, Esq., was inserted in the same list by a mistake.

“During the past year the Society has lost one of its original Members, the Rev. Cæsar Otway, by death.

“In conclusion, the Council have to announce that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, upon being informed of the objects of the Society, was graciously pleased to accept the office of Patron, and the Council have had the honour of presenting to his Excellency copies of the Society’s publications.”

The Report having been read, the following Resolutions were adopted unanimously :

“1. That the Report now read be received and printed, and that the thanks of the Society be given to the Council for their services.”

“2. That the respectful thanks of this Meeting be presented to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, for his gracious condescension in accepting the office of Patron of the Society.”

“3. That Dr. A. Smith and Mr. Hardiman be appointed Auditors of the Accounts of the Society for the ensuing year, and that their statement of the accounts of the Society be printed as an Appendix to the Report.”

His

His Grace the DUKE OF LEINSTER was then elected President of the Society for the ensuing year, and the following Noblemen and Gentlemen were elected as the Council :

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LEITRIM.	JAMES MAC CULLAGH, Esq., LL. D., Sec. R. I. A.
THE RIGHT HON. THE VISCOUNT ADARE, M. P., M. R. I. A.	CAPTAIN LARCOM, R. E., M. R. I. A.
THE LORD GEORGE HILL.	AQUILLA SMITH, M. D., M. R. I. A.
JOHN SMITH FURLONG, Esq., Q. C.	GEORGE PETRIE, Esquire, R. H. A., M. R. I. A.
REV. RICHARD BUTLER, M. R. I. A.	JOS. II. SMITH, Esq., A. M., M. R. I. A.
REV. J. H. TODD, D. D., V. P. R. I. A.	JAMES HARDIMAN, Esq., M. R. I. A.

It was then moved by the Rev. J. C. CROSTHWAITE, and seconded by GEORGE SMITH, Esq.,

“That the thanks of the Society be presented to the Council of the Royal Irish Academy for their kindness in giving the Society the use of their rooms for the present Meeting.”

And then the Society adjourned.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE SOCIETY,

FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO THE 13TH DAY OF JUNE, 1842.

Dr.	£.	s.	d.	Cr.	£.	s.	d.
To transcribing, translating, &c., the following Works published, or in preparation :—				By Admission Fees of 241 members (£3 each), . .	723	0	0
Circuit of Muircheartach (published),	10	10	0	By Annual Subscription of 223 members, for 1841, .	223	0	0
Book of Obits of Christ Church,	15	0	0	By Life Composition of 19 members (£10 each), .	190	0	0
Battle of Moira,	50	0	0	By Annual Subscription of 86 members, for 1842, .	86	0	0
Dymock's Treatise on Ireland,	3	17	0	By one-half year's interest on £100, old 3½ per cent. Stock, Oct. 1841,	1	15	0
Boromean Tribute,	20	0	0	By one-half year's interest on £400, do., to April, 1842,	7	0	0
Cartulary of All Saints,	15	0	0				
Cormac's Glossary,	15	0	0				
Cusack's MS.,	4	4	0				
Cornacan Eigean,	1	0	0				
Paid Mr. O'Donovan and Mr. Curry, by the Council, as a compliment for their valuable services, and to enable them to become Life Members of the Society,	26	0	0				
1841, Oct. 14. To Messrs. Hodges and Smith, printing and paper of Nos. 1, 2. Printing and paper of Circulars, Prospectuses, Report, and sundries,	205	7	2				
1842, June 2. To Messrs. Hodges and Smith, printing and paper of Grace's Annals,	180	6	10				
To Mr. Conolly, Assistant Secretary, one year's salary, to 1842,	20	0	0				
To Secretary, for postage, stationary, carriage of parcels, advertisements, &c., to June 10, 1842,	10	5	0				
1841, May 27. To purchase of £100, old 3½ per cent. stock,	97	17	8				
1841, Dec. 28. To purchase of £300, do.,	298	11	0				
1842, June 13. To balance in the Bank of Messrs. Boyle, Low, Pim, and Co.,	257	16	4				
	£1230	15	0				
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1842.

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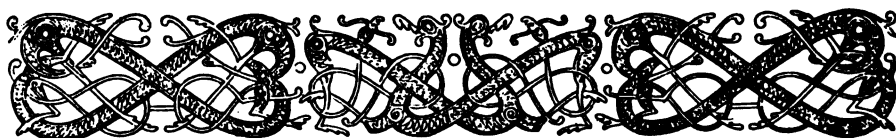
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The ornamental initial letter *D* is taken from the Book of Kells. The Society is indebted to Dr. Aquilla Smith for the *fac-simile* from which the wood cut was engraved.

^a *Ugainè Mor*.—The pedigree of King Domhnall, up to Ugainè Mor, is given in

Note A, at the end of the volume.

^b *Oaths*.—Ro gab paeta, literally, “took or exacted the guarantees of the sun, &c.” but as this would hardly be intelligible in English, the liberty has been taken of rendering it as in the text. The historical fact is also recorded in the Book of Lein-



THE BANQUET OF DUN NA N-GEDH, AND THE CAUSE OF THE BATTLE OF MAGH RATH.

ONCE upon a time there was a renowned king over Erin, namely Domhnall, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, son of Sedna, son of Fergus Cennfoda, son of Conall Gulban, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, of the race of Tuathal Techtmhar and Ugainè Mor. Now this Ugainè Mor exacted oaths^b by the sun and moon, the sea, the dew and colours, and by all the elements visible and invisible, and by every element which is in heaven and on earth, that the sovereignty of Erin should be invested in his descendants for ever. And Tuathal Techtmhar, the son of Fiacha Finnola, exacted the same oaths in imitation of his ancestor Ugainè Mor, *and*

ster, and in the *Leabhar Gabhala*. O'Flaherty (*Ogygia*, p. 260) mentions it in the following words:—"Imperium ultra Hiberniam in occidentalibus Europæ insulis mari Mediterraneo, quod Siculum et Afri-

canum continet citerioribus usque propagavit. Axioma regum principum ac magnatum Hiberniæ jurejurando per res creatas omnes visibiles et invisibiles adhibito, sibi, atque posteris suis in perpetuum devinxit."

cloind-rium im riḡi n-Éirenn tar páruḡad na rath rin ocur na n-bul no nairc-rium forro, pudilri Tempa^c co n-a colamnaib ocur pen-tuata Tempa ocur Mide do gher oca cloind-rium co brát; ocur gé no faemad neac do cloind Ugaime no Thuatail riḡi do tabairt uairib do neac aile, ar ai tra, no^dca dlig in riḡ rin tea^ect i Temair, a^ect mine tucá perann bur computáin p^oia do cloind Ugaime Maip ocur Tuatail Te^ectmaip i cein bur riḡ he foraib; ocur in tan at béla in riḡ rin, Temair do be^et ac claind Ugaime, amail no nairc Ugaime ferin for riru Éirenn, in tan no gab gⁱallu Éirenn ocur Alban ocur co tⁱri Leatha alla naip.

Ar ai rin, no h-er^cained Temair iapum la Ruadan Lo^tra ocur la xii. ap^rtal na h-Éirenn, ocur la nuemu Éirenn ar c^ena. Ocur cipe no gabad in riḡi nⁱri ba h-a^da do be^et i Temair ó ró h-er^cained^d h-i, a^ect in t-inad ba r^ruⁱéiu ocur ba h-aibniu lar in riḡ no gebad Éirinn, i^r ann no bⁱo a domnár no a aⁱreab. Domnall mac A^eda,

^c For an account of the oath which Tuathal Techtmhar exacted from the men of Ireland, see the Book of Leinster and the Leabhar Gabhala of the O'Clery's. O'Flaherty gives it in the following words:

"Tuathalius, regni diademate potitus, comitia Temoriæ indixit, ad quæ Hiberniæ procures magno numero confluxerunt. Ubi omnes, per sua gentilitia sacramenta, solem, lunam, ac cætera numina, terrestria ac celestia, quemadmodum sui majores ipsius majoribus pridem Herimoni et Hugoni voverunt se cum posteris suis ipsi ac nepotibus Hiberniæ regibus, quamdiu solum Hibernicum sale ambitum inviolatam fidem et obsequium præstituros."—*Ogygia*, part iii. c. 56.

^d *Lea^eda*.—Leatha is the name by which Italy is called in the ancient Irish MSS. according to Duald Mac Firbis. This story was evidently written to flatter the pride of the Hy-Niall race, and to show that if any other family succeeded in obtaining the sovereignty they should be viewed in the light of usurpers; and indeed it were well for the ancient Irish if the sovereignty had been vested in some one family. O'Connor, in his Dissertations on the History of Ireland, states that the Hy-Niall formed as old and as uninterrupted a dynasty as any family in Europe.

^e *Lo^tra*.—Lothra, now Lorrha, a village in the Barony of Lower Ormond, in the north of the county of Tipperary, where St.

and stipulated that if the sovereignty of Erin should be contested with his descendants in violation of these oaths, taken on the elements, by which he bound them, his progeny should still have the legitimate possession of Tara with its supporting families, and the old tribes of Tara and Meath perpetually and for ever^c; and that should any of the race of Ugainè or Tuathal even consent to resign the sovereignty to any other person, the latter could not, nevertheless, come to dwell at Tara, unless he had given lands equally ancient as Tara to the descendants of Ugainè Mor and Tuathal Techtmhar while he should be king over them; and that when this king should die, Tara should revert to the race of Ugainè, according to the injunction laid by Ugainè himself on the men of Erin, when he took the hostages of Erin and of the countries extending eastwards to Leathia^d. ✓

Notwithstanding this, Tara was afterwards denounced by St. Ruadhan of Lothra^e and the twelve apostles of Erin, and all the other saints of Erin, so that, whoever obtained the sovereignty, it was not auspicious for him to reside at Tara from the time it was cursed, but the seat and habitation of each king who obtained the chief sway, was *fixed* in whatever locality he deemed most commodious and delightful^f. When Domhnall, the son of Aedh, assumed the sovereignty, he

Ruadhan, or Rodanus, erected a monastery in the sixth century. For a full account of the cursing of Tara by this saint, the reader is referred to the Life of St. Rodanus, published by the Bollandists, 25th April, to Mageoghegan's Translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise, at the year 565, and to Petrie's History and Antiquities of Tara Hill, p. 101.

^f These royal seats were in various parts of Ireland; that of the monarchs of the

Northern Hy-Niall race, was at Aileach, near Derry; the seats of the Southern Hy-Niall were at Lough Leane, near Castlepollard, and at Dun na Sgiath, on the north-west margin of Loch Ainninn, now Lough Ennell, near Mullingar; the seat of the Dal-Cais was at Kincora, in the town of Killaloe; and the seats of the two monarchs of the O'Conor race, at Rath Croghan, in the present county of Roscommon, and at Tuam, in the county

Áeða, imorpio, o po gað riçe Erienn ba peað a dun-arup com-
nuide do poegae Erienn cécur Dun na n-geð foru bu na ðoinne.

Ocup po ðorainð rium peét múru mor-aibblu imon dún rin fa
cormailur Tempaig na riç, ocup ró ðorainð gið tiçe in dúine rin
fa ðormailur tiçe na Tempaé .i. in muðcuairt mor-aðbal, ir inu
no bíð in riç ferin ocup na píçna ocup na h-ollumain, ocup an ir
deach fri ceé n-dán oléna; ocup in Long Muman, ocup in Long
Laigen, ocup in Choirin Connaé, ocup in Eacrair Ulad, ocup
Carcair na n-giall, ocup Recla na fíled, ocup Grianan in en
uaitne,—ir eribe do riçned la Cormac mac Airt ar tur dia inçin
.i. do Grianne—ocup na tiçe oléna cenmoét rin.

Conlaiu.

of Galway. But the monarch of Ireland, of whatever race he happened to be, or wherever he fixed his residence, was nevertheless called King of Tara as often as King of Erin by the Bards.

⁸ *Dun na n-gedh*.—This name is now forgotten. It was probably the name of the large fort on the south side of the Boyne, near Dowth, in the county of East Meath. In Mac Morissy's copy it is written Dun na n-gaedh, which seems more correct. King Domhnall afterwards removed his residence to Ard Fothadh, near the town of Donegal, where he died, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, in the year 639 [*recte* 642].

^h *Midhchuart*.—For an account of the Teach Midhchuart, or Banqueting Hall at Tara, see Petrie's History and Antiquities of Tara Hill, p. 160, *et sequent*.

ⁱ *Ollaves*.—Ollamh signifies a chief professor of any science.

^j *Long Mumhan*,—i. e. the Munster

house.

^k *Long Laighean*,—i. e. the Leinster house.

^l *Coisir Connacht*,—i. e. the Connacht Banqueting house.

^m *Eachrair Uladh*,—i. e. the Ultonian house. These four houses seem to have formed a part of the Teach Midhchuart.

ⁿ *Prison of the Hostages*.—For the situation of Dumha na n-giall, at Tara, near which must have stood Carcair na n-giall, the Prison of the Hostages, see Petrie's Hist. and Antiq. of Tara Hill, plate 7.

^o *Star of the Poets*.—There is no mention made of this house in Petrie's History and Antiquities of Tara Hill.

^p *Grianan of the one pillar*.—This is the fort called Rath Graine, in Petrie's History and Antiquities of Tara Hill, p. 192. The relative situation of all the ruins, as existing on Tara Hill, in the tenth century, are shown on plate 10 of that work, and as they exist at present on plate 6, and

he first selected Dun na n-gedh^s, on the bank of the Boinn [the River Boyne], to be his habitation beyond all the situations in Erin.

And he drew [formed] seven very great ramparts around this fort after the model of regal Tara, and he also laid out the houses of that fort after the model of the houses of Tara, namely, the great Midhchuaire^b, in which the king himself, and the queens, and the ollaves^c, and those who were most distinguished in each profession, sit; also the Long Mumhan^d, the Long Laighean^e, the Coisir Connacht^f, the Eachrais Uladh^g, the Prison of the Hostages^h, the Star of the Poetsⁱ, the Grianan of the one pillar^j (which last had been first built at Tara by Cormac Mac Art^k, for his daughter Grainne), and other houses besides.

One

also on the Ordnance Map of the county of Meath, Parish of Tara.

^a *Cormac Mac Art*.—The commencement of the reign of this monarch is recorded in the Annals of Tighernach, at A. D. 218, and his death is entered in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 266. His daughter Graine, for whom the *Grianan* here mentioned was erected, was the wife of the celebrated warrior Finn Mac Cumhaill, the Fingal of Mac Pherson's Ossian. The word "Grianan" may be thus correctly defined: 1. A beautiful sunny spot, as Grianan Calraighe, a place in the parish of Calry, in the north of the county of Sligo. In this topographical or rural sense, it is translated by Colgan, *solarium, terra solaris*, (Acta SS. p. 13, not. 6). 2. A bower or summer-house. 3. A balcony or gallery, a boudoir. 4. A royal palace. In the third and fourth sense here set down, this word is

very frequently used in the old Irish Historical Tales and Romances. The following description of the erection of a Grianan, as given in a very ancient historical tale, entitled Fledh Bricinn, i. e. the Feast of Bricrenn, preserved in Leabhar na h-Uidhri, a MS. of the twelfth century, now in the possession of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, will give one a tolerably correct idea of what the ancient Irish meant by the word:—"Then did Bricrenn erect a Grianan near the couch of King Concobhar and those of the heroes. This Grianan he formed of gems and various rich materials, and placed on it *windows of glass* on every side. One of these windows he placed over his own couch, so that he might see the whole extent of the great house out of it."

In the third sense it is used in the Leabhar Breac, fol. 27, a, a, to translate the Latin word *cœnaculum*.

Codlaip Domnall adaiḡ iapum iḡ in tḡ iḡ, ocuḡ atci fḡ ocuḡ aḡlḡnḡtḡ ingḡad, ocuḡ iḡ e at conaiḡc cuilen con iḡ h-aileb laip (i. fearḡlḡnd aḡm in chon iḡ) fop a ḡlun fepir. a dul fop duible ocuḡ daiḡaḡt uada, ocuḡ cuanarḡa Epenn ocuḡ Alban ocuḡ Saxon ocuḡ ḡpetan do tḡol do'n cuilen iḡ, co tapḡ-ḡat fḡḡt caḡa do'n iḡ co fepaiḡb Epenn ime fḡ fḡḡt laa na fḡḡtmaine, ocuḡ co tapḡḡa aḡ ceand eturḡu caḡ laiḡt dib-iḡ, ocuḡ in fḡḡtmaḡ laa ann iḡ mebaiḡ fop na conu. Ocuḡ iḡ marḡḡa cḡ in iḡ, an daiḡlaip, iḡ in caḡ deiḡenaḡ dib iḡ. Murclaiḡ iapum in iḡ aḡ a ḡoolub ocuḡ do taḡḡ do dibḡ aḡ in imḡaiḡ co m-bui lomnoḡt fop uplaḡ in tḡḡ. Do beḡt umoppo ben in iḡ, i. ingḡn iḡ Opḡaiḡe, a do laim in a ḡraiḡat, ocuḡ aḡbeḡt fḡiḡ, aiḡiḡ ocum-ḡa, a iḡ, ol iḡ, ocuḡ na tuc h'aiḡe iḡ fḡiḡib aiḡḡe, ocuḡ na iḡt uamḡaiḡḡer tḡiḡt; aḡ atat Conaill, ocuḡ Eogain, ocuḡ Aiḡḡialla, ocuḡ Clann Colmain, ocuḡ Sil Aḡda Slaine, ocuḡ ceḡḡe fḡne Tempach imut anocht iḡ in tḡ iḡ, ocuḡ aiḡiḡ fop ceill, ol iḡ.

ḡennaḡt

^r *Vision*.—The word fḡ is given in Cormac's Glossary as cognate with the Latin word *visio*.

^s *Erin*.—Its Nominative is Eḡe, Gen. Epenn, Dat. or Oblique case Epim.

^t *Alba*, now Scotland. Nom. Aḡa, Gen. Aḡan, Dat. or Oblique case Aḡain.

^u *Sacḡan*, i. e. that part of England then in the possession of the Saxons.

^v *ḡpetain*, i. e. that part of Britain then in the possession of the Welsh or ancient Britons.

^w *Aḡ cenn*, literally "slaughter of heads," i. e. of men; *strages capitum*.

^x *The king's wife*.—She was named Duinsech, according to the history of remarkable women, preserved in the Book of Lecan, fol.

193. She was probably the sister of Croinseach, the daughter of Aedh Finn, Prince of Ossory, who was married to King Domhnall's brother, Maelcobha, the clerk. The death of Duinsech is recorded by all the Irish Annalists; Tighernach, whose chronology is the most correct, dates it A. D. 639.

^y *Race of Conall*,—i. e. the descendants of Conall Gulban, who was the youngest son of the monarch Niall of the Nine Hostages, and who died in the year 464. They had their possessions in the present county of Donegal, and in later ages branched into several great families, as O'Muldory, O'Canannan, O'Donnell, O'Doherty, O'Gallagher, O'Boyle, &c.

^z *Race of Eoghan*,—i. e. the descendants

One night as Domhnall afterwards slept in this house, he had a vision^r and a dream: he saw a greyhound whelp, Fearglonn by name, which had been reared by himself, go forth from him, even from his knee, with rage and fury, gathering the dogs of Erin^s, Alba^t, Saxon-land^u and Britain^v; and they gave the king and the men of Erin around him seven battles during the seven days of the week, and a slaughter of heads^w was made between them each day, but on the seventh day the dogs were worsted, and in the last battle the king's own hound, as he thought, was killed. The king then awoke from his sleep, and he sprang affrighted from his bed, so that he was naked on the floor of the house. The king's wife^x, the daughter of the king of Ossory, put her two arms about his neck and said to him, "Tarry with me, O king," said she, "and do not heed visions of the night, and be not affrighted by them, for the race of Conall^y and Eoghan^z, the Oirghialla^a, the Clann Colmain^b, the sons of Aedh Slaine^c, and the four tribes of Tara^d, are around thee this night in this house, and *therefore*," said she, "remain steady to reason."

"A blessing

of Eoghan, son of the same monarch. Eoghan died in the year 465. After the establishment of surnames the more distinguished families of this race were O'Neill, Mac Loughlin, O'Kane, O'Hagan, O'Gormley, O'Quin, Mac Cathmhaoil, now Mac Cawell, O'Mullen, &c. &c.

^a *The Oirghialla*.—They were the descendants of the three Collas, who destroyed the Ultonian palace of Emania, in the year 333 (Ann. Tighearnach.), and drove the ancient Ultonians, or Clanna Rudhraighe, beyond Glen Righe and Lough Neagh, into the present counties of Down and Antrim. In later ages the principal families of the Oirghialla were the Mac

Mahons, O'Carrolls, O'Hanlons, Maguires, O'Hanraghtys, Mac Kennas, &c. &c. Their country comprised the counties of Louth, Armagh, and Monaghan, and the greater part of Fermanagh.

^b *Clann Colmain*,—i. e. the Race of Colman, the son of Dermot. This Colman flourished about the year 562, and was the ancestor of the O'Melaghlines of Westmeath, the chiefs of the Southern Hy-Niall race.

^c *Aedh Slaine*.—He reigned jointly with Colman, the son of Baedan, from the year 599 to 605.

^d *The four tribes of Tara*.—The four tribes or families of Tara, after the esta-

bennaict fóirt, a ben, ol re, ír maic rom tecaírcir; ocur do taed lee ír in leapaio íar rin; ocur no íarraict in rígan ícela de cío at conaírc ír in íír. Ní éibér fíort a rígan, ol re, na fíi neac aile, no co roíruir co h-aírm a íil Maelcaba Cleírech, mo deíbraíair, ar ír e bítehem aílíngí ír deach íil a n-Éíruí.

Téit íarum in ríg i cío mír ced caírríech co h-aírm á m-buí Maelcaba, mac Aeda, mic Aínníreí, co Druim Dílaí, uaí ír ann no buí íar íágbaíl rígi n-Éíenn ar gíao Dé ocur in Choímíed na n-buí, ocur díreírt m-bec aígí ann rín, ocur en deícnébuí ban, ocur ced cleíreí a lín ann rín, fíi h-ííreínd ocur ceílebríao ced tráía. Ráímc umóíro in ríg co Druim Dílaí co teac Maílaba, ocur íeírtar íaílí fíuí ann, ocur do gííteí íóí-áíc doíb, ocur at naíarí bíao doíb cu m-ba íaíteac íat uile. Aíat ann rín fíi íeíctmaí, ocur ínníroí Domíall íarum a aílíngí do Maelcaba co leí, ocur arbeírt fíuí, beíí bíteí fíuíre rín, a bíraíair ínnmaí, ol re. Ro h-ínnídeíta íarum ím Maelcaba íar cloírtíect na h-aílíngí, ocur aílbeírt, ír cían o ía a íaííííngí in aílíngíe rín, a ríg, ol re, ocur bírat-ra bíreí fíuíí. Mac ríg, ol re, ocur cuílen con, ínand aílíngí doíb. Aíat ía íalía agut-ra, a ríg, ol re, .i. Cobíach Caem mac Ragallí

blishment of surnames, were the O'Harts, O'Regans, O'Kellys of Bregia, and O'Conollys. See prose version of O'Dugan's Topographical Poem, drawn up for Maguire by the Four Masters, in the MS. collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, No. 178, p. 345, line 12.

* *Maelcobha, the cleric*, the son of Aedh, was King of Ireland from the year 612 to 615, when he retired to Druim Dilair, having resigned the government to Suibhne Meann, who reigned till the year 628,

when Domhnall, the brother of Maelcobha, and hero of this tale, succeeded.

† *Druim Dilair* was the ancient name of a place near Belleek, in the barony of Magheraboy, and county of Fermanagh. See O'Reilly's Irish Writers, pp. xli, xlii; also the *Leabhar Gabhala* of the O'Clerys, reign of Maolcobha, pp. 186 to 189, where Druim Dilair is described as near the margin of Caol Uisce, now Caol na h-Eirne, near Belleek.

‡ *Hermitage*.—Díreírt, which is the name of many places in Ireland, is translated

"A blessing be upon thee, O woman," said he, "well hast thou quieted me;" and he then returned with her into the bed. And the queen requested him to relate to her what he had seen in the vision. "I will not tell it to thee, O queen," said he, "nor to any one else, until I reach the place where Maelcobha, the cleric,^e my brother, is, for he is the best interpreter of dreams in Erin."

In a month afterwards, the king proceeded with a hundred chariots to Druim Dilair,^f where Maelcobha, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, was dwelling, having resigned the sovereignty of Erin for the love of God, the creator of the elements, and having here a small hermitage,^g with ten women, and one hundred clerks to offer masses and sing vespers at the hours. The king arrived at Druim Dilair at the house of Maelcobha, where he was welcomed, and where a resting-place was prepared for him and his people, and food was distributed to them till they were all satisfied. They remained here for a week, and Domhnall fully revealed his dream to Maelcobha, and said to him, "Give thy judgment on that, dear brother." Maelcobha grew red on hearing the dream, and said "It is long since the events shown in that dream were predicted, O king," said he, "and I will pass my judgment upon it. A greyhound whelp in a dream," said he, "is the same as a king's son: thou hast two foster-sons, O king," said he, "namely, Cobhthach Caemh,^h the son of Raghallach, the son of Uadach

desertus locus and *desertum* by Colgan. (Acta SS. p. 579, cap. 3). It originally meant desert or wilderness, but it was afterwards applied to a hermit's cell or habitation, as appears from the Leabhar Breac, fol. 100, *a*, *a*, and a MS. in the Lib. Trin. Coll. (H. 2. 18.) fol. 113, *b*, *a*.

^h *Cobhtach Caemh*.—No mention is made of this Cobhthach in the Irish Annals, but

the death of his father, Raghallach, is noted by Tighernach, at the year 649, and that of his brother Cellach, at the year 705. "Cellach Mac Ragallaigh Righ Connacht *post clericatum obiit*." The name Cobhthach, which signifies *victorious*, is still preserved in the family name O'Cobhthaigh, which is usually anglicised *Coffey*, without the prefix O'.

Ragallaiḡ, mic Uadach; nuḡ Connaḡt in Ragallac hupin; ocur Congal Claen, mac Scannlain Sciathleḡtáin; nuḡ Ulad ferin in ti Congal. Ardaigfid ceḡtar dib i t'agaib-riu, a nuḡ, ocur do béra diberrgaiḡ ocur oer denma uile Alban, ocur Ffrangc, ocur Saxon, ocur bpietan lair do cum n-Epienn, ocur do bepat peḡt caḡa duiriu ocur d'fepaib Epienn ar cēna, cu ni-ba h-ilapda ár rlog fopaib diblinib, ocur in peḡtmaḡ caḡ cuipfitepi eḡtḡaib taetḡaib do dalta-ru ip in caḡ rin. Ocur ip i rin bpiet na h-airlingḡi ac cōnapcair, a nuḡ, ar Maelcaba, ocur aped ip cōip duiriu, a nuḡ, olpe, plead do tūpḡnam agud, ocur fip Epienn do tapḡlom dia caḡim ocur ḡeill caḡa cuicib a n-Epienn do ḡabail, ocur na di dalta rin pilet agud-ia do cōḡbail a n-ḡlapaib co ceann m-bliadna. Ar ip neḡtar dib tic fpiḡ, daig teit a neim ar caḡ airlingḡi allapḡiḡ do bliadain; ocur a leḡud amaḡ iar rin, ocur peḡdu iḡida ocur inaḡne dīpime do tábairt doib iapum.

Ni dīngentap rin lim-ḡa, ol in nuḡ, ár ip tūpca no fuicpind ip Epe inár do ḡénaind fell fop ma daltaḡaib ferin, ar ni ticḡaib fpiim-ḡa cāidce, ocur dia tūḡḡair fipu in domain fpiim-ḡa ni ticḡad Congal. Conad ann arbert po:

Ac conapc airlingḡi n-olc,
peḡtmain fop mīḡ ḡur a noḡt,
ip do tanagur om' tūḡ,
d'a h-airnéir d'a h-innupin.

Mo cūilen-ḡa cuanna a clu,
Fepḡlonn fepi h-i na ceḡ cú,

ḡap

¹ *Congal Claen* is called Congal Caech in the Annals of Tighernach, at the year 637, and Congal Caoch, or Congal Claon, in the Annals of the Four Masters, at the year 624. It appears from this story that both epithets are synonymous, and mean

wry-eyed.

² *Then he said.*—This is the usual arrangement of ancient Irish tales: a certain portion of the story is first told in prose, and the most remarkable incidents in the same afterwards repeated in metre,

Uadach; (this Raghallach is king of Connaught); and Congal Clacn', the son of Scannlan of the Broad Shield; Congal himself is king of Ulster. Either of these will rise up against thee, O king, and will bring the plunderers and the doers of evil of Alba, France, Saxonland, and Britain with him to Erin, who will give seven battles to thee and the men of Erin, so that great slaughter shall be made between you both, and in the seventh battle which shall be fought between you, thy foster-son shall fall. And this is the interpretation of the vision thou hast seen, O king," said Maelcobha. "Now it is proper for thee, O king," said he, "to prepare a banquet, and to invite to it the men of Erin, and to obtain the hostages of every province in Erin, and also to detain in fetters, to the end of a year, these two foster-sons of thine, because it is one of them who will rise up against thee, and because the venom goes out of every dream within the year. Then set them at liberty, and bestow many jewels and much wealth upon them."

"This shall not be done by me," said the king, "for sooner would I quit Erin than deal treacherously by my own foster-sons, for they will never rise up against me, and if all the men of the world should oppose me Congal would not." And then he said':

Domhnall.—"I have seen an evil dream,
 A week and a month this night,
 In consequence of it I left my house,
 To narrate it, to tell it.
 My whelp of estimable character,
 Ferglonn, better than any hound.

Methought

often in the nature of a dialogue between two of the principal characters. It is generally supposed that these stories were recited by the ancient Irish poets for the amusement of their chieftains, at their public feasts, and that the portions given in metre were sung.—See Preface.

ɔap lin ɾo ɛinoil ɔam cuain,
 ɔ'ár mill Ǝrinn ɾɾi h-ɔen uair.
 ɔer-ɾi bɾeic ɾír uirre-ɾin,
 uair a Mailcaba, cleirig
 ir tu ɔlígɾ co h-eimeach,
 ac ɾiríg, ac ɾír-ɛléirrech.
 Mac ɾig ir cuilen mílcon,
 inand ɔoib gup ir gɾómɾaɔ;
 inand menma ɔoib malle,
 Ocur inand airlinge.
 Mac ɾig Ulaɔ, apɔ a ɾmaɛt,
 no mac ɾig cuiced Connaɛt,
 Cobɛach—tic ɾɾit ap cec ɾoen,
 no a ɾear cumɛa, Congal Claen.
 Cobɛach ɔo ɛiaɛtain ɾɾim-ɾa,
 mairg a ɔeir, uair ir inɾa;
 ir ni ɛicɾaɔ Congal cain,
 ɾɾim-ɾa ap ɔerɾ-ór in ɔomain.
 Comairli na millɾed neac,
 uaim ɔuit, a ui Ainmɾeɛ:
 a n-gabail ɾe bliaðain m-bain,
 ni ba meɾaib h' éɔail.
 Mairg aipe ɔo ɛuair ɔo'n gup,
 ɔia nom' g'ébaɔ aitéɾcúr,
 ɔa n-ɔernainɔ, nɾ ɾuairc in glonn,
 noɛa ɔeɛɾainɔ ceill na conɔ.

Ac.

Tic in ɾig ɔia ɛig iar ɾin, ocur ɾo ɛinoilleɔ ɾleaɔ bainɔɾi lair
 ɔo h'énam bainɔɾi a ɔúine ocur a ɾige, ocur ni ɾaib a n-Ǝrinn ɔun
 amail

Methought assembled a pack
 By which he destroyed Erin in one hour.
 Pass thou a true judgment upon it,
 O Maelcobha, O cleric,
 It is thou oughtest readily,
 Thou art a seer and a true cleric."

Maelcobha.—"The son of a king and a greyhound whelp
 Show the same courage and exploits;
 They have both the same propensity,
 And in dreams are [denote] the same thing.
 The son of Ulster's king of high authority,
 Or the son of the king of the province of Connaught,
 Cobhthach,—will oppose thee in every way,
 Or his playmate, Congal Claen."

Domhnall.—"That Cobhthach should oppose me
 It is cruel to say, for it is difficult;
 And the comely Congal would not rise up
 Against me for the world's red gold."

Maelcobha.—"A counsel which shall injure no one
 From me to thee, O grandson of Ainmirè:
 To fetter them for a full bright year;
 Thy prosperity will not be the worse for it."

Domhnall.—"Alas, for the judge who came to the decision,
 For which remorse would seize me;
 Should I do the deed, 'twould not be joyful,
 I would not consult sense or reason.

I have seen," &c.

After this, the king returned to his house, and prepared a banquet
 to celebrate the completion of his palace and his accession to the
 throne.

amail a dún-rum, aét nar ba bind lair an rígaín ocup la Domnall ferin a ainm .i. Dun na n-géd do goiridir de. Ocup ir é po ráid Domnall firi a nuaeru ocup firi a pectairiu, ocup firi h-oeir tobaig a éana ocup a éira, ina b-fuigbeduir a n-Érinn de uigib géd do éabairt leo do cum na pleide rin, ar nír bo miao la Domnall co m-beit i n-Érinn cenel m-bís uách fuigbítea fopir in pleide rin. Ro cinolad tra in plead uile iuir fín, ocup mío, ocup éorimaim, ocup cenel ceé bís oléana, cenmoéat na h-uigi nama, áir nír ba peid a fágbail.

Ocup do deacádaí oer in tobaig feacnóin Míoe fop iarair na n-uige, conur tapladaí fop duiréach m-bec, ocup oen bannical ann, ocup caille dub fop a cind, ocup ri oc irnaigíte firi Dia. Ac ciad muinir in iug ealta do gédaib i n-dopur in duiréige. Tiaaíat ir in teac ocup fo gabat iand lan de uigib géd ann. Ocup aibertadaí fop rén maíe dun, ol iat, uair dia rírmuir Ére, ní fuigbítea ní buo mó olóareo de uigib géd in oen inad innit. Nípu rén maíe, iuir

^k *His accession to the throne.*—It was a custom among the Irish chieftains to give a feast at the completion of any great work, or on their succession to the chieftainship.

^l *Dun na n-Gedh* signifies the *dun* or fort of the geese. In Mac Morrissey's copy of this Tract, which was corrected by Peter Connell, now forming No. 60 of the MS. collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, it is written *Dun na n-Gaedh*, i. e. the fort of the darts or wounds. It is curious, that the writer of the story does not state why King Domhnall had imposed such a name on his new palace. It does not appear to be derived from the goose eggs which are made the principal cause of the battle of

Magh Rath.

^m *To procure them.*—That is, it was not easy to procure them at that season, as geese do not lay throughout the year.

ⁿ *Duirtheach.*—This word has been incorrectly rendered *nosocomium* by Dr. O'Connor, throughout his translation of the Irish Annals, but correctly *pœnitentium ædes*, and *domus pœnitentiæ*, by Colgan, who understood the ancient Irish language far better than Dr. O'Connor. (Acta SS. p. 407 and 606). Peter Connell, in his Dictionary, explains it, a house of austerity, rigour, and penance. There are several ruins of *Duirtheachs* still remaining in Ireland, and we learn from an ancient vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity Col-

throne^k. There was not in Erin a fort like his fort, but neither the Queen, nor Domhnall himself, deemed the sound of the name by which it was called melodious, viz., Dun na n-Gedh^l. And Domhnall commanded his stewards and lawgivers, and the collectors of his rents and tributes, to gather and bring to the feast all the goose eggs that could be found in Erin, for Domhnall did not deem it honourable that there should be in Erin a kind of food that should not be found at that banquet; and all the materials were collected for the feast, wine, metheglin, and ale, and every kind of food besides, except the eggs alone, for it was not easy to procure them^m.

And the collectors went forth throughout Meath, in search of the eggs, until they came to a small Duirtheachⁿ [hermitage], in which was one woman^o with a black hood^p upon her head, and she praying to God. The king's people saw a flock of geese at the door of the Duirtheach; they went into the house and found a vessel full of goose eggs. "We have had great success," said they, "for should we search Erin, there could not be found more goose eggs together in one place than are here." "It will not be good success," said the woman, "and it will not redound

lege, Dublin, that the Duirtheach was the smallest of the sacred edifices in use amongst the ancient Irish. See the passage given in full in the second part of Mr. Petrie's Inquiry into the Origin and Uses of the Round Towers of Ireland, where the meaning of the word is discussed at full length.

The site of the Duirtheach above referred to, which is on the margin of the Boyne, near the village of Slane, in the county of East Meath, is now occupied by a small chapel in ruins, which, though only a few centuries old, is still called

Erc's Hermitage.

^o *One woman*.—The word *bannpcal*, which is also written *bannpcal*, is now obsolete, but it occurs so frequently in the ancient MSS. that its meaning cannot be mistaken. It is always used to denote *female* or *woman*, as is *feppcal* to denote *male* or *man*. "I^r epia bannpcal tainic bá^r do'n bré, i. e. it is through, or on account of, a woman, death entered into the world."—*Leabhar Breac*.

^p *With a black hood*.—The word *caille* is evidently cognate with the English word *cowl*. It is translated *caelum* by Col-

ιτιρ όη, ol in bannrcal, ocur m ba litch do'n pleioi gur a m-berpcar in m-bec m-bíó rin. Cio rin? ol iac. Nín. ol in bannrcal; naem murbulda do muindcir dé fil runn .i. Eppuc Eapc Slaine, ocur ip e a mod beic ip in doinn conice a dí ocraíl o madain co fercor, ocur a íaltair forr in tpaét ina íiadhairi, ocur pé oc ipnaigéi do grier; ocur ip i a ppoind ceca nóna iari toét runn ug co leith ocur tpi gar a do bíor na doinne; ocur ip e ip coir duib-ri cen a íarugad imon m-bec m-bíó rin fil aici. Ní caporat iarum muinntir uairpéc in ríó nac fpeagra fuirri. Uair badar aicig a h-uét tpeoin iad. do'n cúp rin, ocur beairt leo cuio in íipeoin ocur in naeim dia aindeoin. Maipg tpa gur a pucad in m-bec m-bíó rin, ap po fár mór olc de iartain, uair m paibe Eriu oen adairg o rin ille a ríó na a rocpa, no cen pun uile ocur eccora do denum inoici co cenn athaid.

Tic in t-epiam dia éig iarum .i. Eppuc Eapc Slaine, tpaénona, ocur innuir in bannrcal rgela a íaruiéte do. Féigairter uime rin in íipén, ocur arberc: ní pu íén maich do'n ti gur a pucad in cenel bíó rin, ocur nári ub é ríó na leap Erienn tic do'n pleioi gur a pucad; aét gur ab é a h-impeina, ocur a congala, ocur a h-epío tic do. Ocur po epcain iarum in plead amail ip neim-neacu for caemnacair a h-eapcaine.

Α m-batar

gan, and explained in a Glossary preserved in a MS. in the Library of Trinity College, (II. 3. 18.) p. 524. "Ópéio dub," a black veil; and by O'Clery, "Ópéio bíor ap ceannaió ban," i. e. a veil which women wear on their heads. O'Brien, in his Dictionary, explains this word, "a veil or cowl given to a nun or monk," and quotes the following passage from an Irish Life of St. Bridget, which puts its meaning

beyond dispute: "Po huair Mac Caille caille uap ceann naomí Ópígoe, i. e. *Posuit Maccaleus VELUM super caput Sanctæ Brigide.*"

^a *Bishop Erc.*—This is an anachronism, for Bishop Erc, of Slaine, who was cotemporary with St. Patrick, died in the year 514 (Ussher's Primordia, p. 442), and this battle was fought in the year 638, that is, 124 years after Erc's death! The pro-

redound to the happiness of the banquet to which this small quantity of provisions will be brought." "Why so?" said they. "It is plain," said the woman; "a wonder-working saint of God's people dwells here, namely, Bishop Erc, of Slaine³, and his custom is to remain immersed in the Boinn,⁴ up to his two arm-pits, from morning till evening, having his Psalter before him on the strand, constantly engaged in prayer; and his dinner every evening on returning hither is an egg and a half, and three sprigs of the cresses of the Boinn; and it behoves you not to take away from him the small store of food which he has. But the proud people of the king made no reply to her,—for they were plebeians in the shape of heroes on this occasion,—and they carried away the property of the righteous man and saint, in despite of him [her]. But woe to him to whom this small quantity of food was brought, for a great evil sprang from it afterwards; for Erin was not one night thenceforward in the enjoyment of peace, or tranquillity, or without a desire of evil or injustice, for some time.

The holy patron, Bishop Erc, of Slaine, came to his house in the evening, and the woman told him how he was plundered. The righteous man then became wroth, and said: "It will not be good luck to the person to whom this kind of food was brought; and may the peace or welfare of Erin not result from the banquet to which it was brought; but may quarrels, contentions, and commotions be the consequence to her." And he cursed the banquet⁵ as bitterly as he was able to curse it.

As

bility is, that the original composer of the story had written *Comharba* [i. e. successor] of Erc, of Slaine; but all the copies to which we have access at present agree in making the Saint Erc himself.—See Note B, at the end of the volume.

⁴ *Boinn*, now the celebrated River Boyne,

which flows through the towns of Trim, Navan, and Drogheda, and has its source in Trinity Well, at the foot of a hill, anciently called Sidh Nechtain, in the barony of Carbery, and county of Kildare.

⁵ *He cursed the banquet*.—It would appear that the irritability said to be so dis-

A m-batar muinntir in níg ann iar rin ina comdail, at concatar in lanamuin cúcu .i. bean ocuṛ fear; méidteṛ fṛu mulba dí cārraic fōr pléib cec m-ball dia m-ballaib; géidteṛ altan beṛrta faebur a lurgan; a rála ocuṛ a n-eaṛcaba nempu; gé focerṛta miac di ublaib fōr a cennaib nī roirṛd uball dib lár, acṛ conclirṛd fōr barr cec oen ruainne do'n fult aggarb, aitéṛ, nō innfar tria n-a ḡ-cendab; ḡuirmtṛ gual, nō duibteṛ deataig cec m-ball dib; ḡiliteṛ rnecta a ruile; conceptat fabach dia fṛéictair conclirṛd dar cul a cind rectaṛ, ocuṛ conceptat fabach dia fṛé uactair con foilgeṛ a n-glúine; ulca fōr in m-bannrcail ocuṛ in fṛpccál cen ulcain. Oṛolbach eturru 'gá h-imarccōi lán de uigib ḡé. bennaérat do'n níg fo'n innar rin. Cid rin? ol in níg. Nín. ol iat, fṛu

tinguishing a feature in the Irish character, was, at least in those times, exhibited as strikingly by the ecclesiastics as by the laity. In the twelfth century Giraldus Cambrensis wrote the following curious remark on this subject:

"Hoc autem mirabile mihi et notabile videtur: quod sicut nationis hujus homines hac in vita mortali præ aliis gentibus impatientes sunt et præcipientes ad vindictam: sic et in morte vitali, meritis jam excelsi, præ aliarum regionum sanctis, animi vindicis esse videntur. Nec alia mihi ratio eventus hujus occurrit: nisi quoniam gens Hibernica castellis carens, prædonibus abundans, Ecclesiarum potius refugiis quam castrorum municipiis, et præcipue Ecclesiastici viri seque suaque tueri solent: divina providentia simul et indulgentia gravi frequentique animadversione, in Ecclesiarum hostes opus fuerat. Ut et sic ab ecclesiastica pace impiorum pravitas

procul arceatur: et ipsis ecclesiis ab irreverenti populo debita veneratio vel serviliter exhibeatur."—*Topographia Hiberniæ*, Dist. 2. c. lv.

Another specimen of this kind of indignant cursing will be found in the Irish Tale entitled, "Death of Muirchertach Mor Mac Earca," preserved in a vellum MS. in the Library of Trin. Coll. Dub. (H. 2. 16.) p. 316. It is the curse uttered by St. Cairneach of Tuilen (now Dulane, near Kells, in the county of East Meath), against the Royal Palace of Cletty, on the Boyne, inhabited by Muirchertach Mor Mac Earca, who became monarch of Ireland A. D. 513. The following are the words of this curse literally translated:

"A curse be upon this hill,

Upon Cletty of beautiful hillocks,
May nor its corn nor its milk be good;
May it be full of hatred and misery;
May neither king nor chief be in it, &c."

As the king's people were afterwards at the assembly, they saw a couple approaching them, namely, a woman and a man; larger than the summit of a rock on a mountain was each member of their members; sharper than a shaving knife the edge of their shins; their heels and hams in front of them; should a sackful of apples be thrown on their heads not one of them would fall to the ground, but would stick on the points of the strong, bristly hair which grew out of their heads; blacker than the coal or darker than the smoke was each of their members; whiter than snow their eyes; a lock of the lower beard was carried round the back of the head, and a lock of the upper beard descended so as to cover the knees; the woman had whiskers, but the man was without whiskers. They carried a tub between them which was full of goose eggs. In this plight they saluted the king. "What is that?" said the king. "It is plain," said they, "the men of Erin are making a banquet

¹ *Sharper than*.—This mode of description by comparatives ending in *ceap* is very common in ancient Irish MSS., but never used nor understood in the modern Irish. This form of the comparative degree comprises in it the force of a comparative, and that of the Conjunction *than*, which always follows it in English, or of the Ablative case in Latin. Thus *geipiúceap alcaen* is the same as the modern *níor géipe ná alcaen*, "*sharper than a razor*." When the Noun following this form of the comparative degree is of the feminine gender it always appears in the Dative or Ablative case, as *gilúceap gném*, "*whiter than the sun*", which is exactly similar to the Latin *lucidior sole*. Some Irish grammarians have attempted to account for

this form, by stating that it is not properly a form of the comparative degree, but an amalgamation, or synthetic union, of a Noun formed from the Adjective, and the Preposition *ceap* *beyond*; so that in the above instance *geipiúceap* is to be considered an amalgamation of *geipe* or *geipi* (a Substantive formed from the Adjective *géap*), *sharpness*, and the Preposition *ceap*, *beyond*; and thus according to them *geipiúceap alcaen*, if literally translated, would be a "*sharpness beyond*, i. e. *exceeding, a razor*."—See *Observations on the Gaelic Language*, by R. M'Elligott, published in the *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Dublin*, vol. i. p. 36, where, however, that very clever scholar seems to consider this a regular comparative form of Irish Adjectives.

firu Erienn oc teaglumad flevi duic-fiu, ocur do ber cec feai a cumang do'n flevi rin, ocur ir e ar cumang-ne ina ril for ar muin de uigib. Am buivec de, ol in rig. Berar ir in dun iat, ocur do berar pproind céo do biúo ocur corpmaim doib. Loingio in ferrcal rin ocur ni taro ní de do'n banrcal. Do berar pproind céo eli doib. Loingio dublinib rin. Tabar biad dun, ol iat, má tá lib h-é. Ir cubur dún, ol Carciabach, .i. pectaire in rig, ni tiberter co toirret firu Erienn olcena do'n flevi. Arbertadar sum, bió olc duib rinne do tomait na flevi ar tur, ar bió imiernaig firu Erienn inpe, ar ir do muinntir iprinn dún, ocur fo gniat micelmaine mor do na plogaib. Lingit amac iapum ocur tiasait for nepni.

Ro tocuirtea iárum cuicedaig Erienn do'n flevi rin, ocur a rigu, ocur a toirig, ocur a n-óc-tigernn, ocur a n-amiaid, ocur oer cača dana gnačaiğ ocur ingnathaiğ olcena. Ir iat ro ba cuige-baig fori Erienn in tan rin .i. Congal Claen, mac Scannlain, i rigi n-Ulad, ocur Criméann, mac Aeda Cuir, i rigi Laigen, ocur Maelduin, mac Aeda Bennain, i rigi Munian, ocur a briačai .i. Iollann, mac Aeda Bennain, fori Deirmumain, ocur Ragallac, mac Uadač,

"*Vanished, &c.*—This is the kind of characters introduced into ancient Irish stories, instead of the footpads and bandits of modern novels. Wonder-working saints and horrific phantoms were, in the all-believing ages in which such tales were written, necessary to give interest to every narrative, whether the piece was fiction, history, or a mixture of both.

"*Urimthann, the son of Aedh Cuir.*—This is another anachronism, for, according to the Annals of Ulster and Tighernach, this Crimthann, King of Leinster, had been

slain in the battle of Ath Goan, five years before the battle of Magh Rath.

"A. D. 632.—*Bellum Atho Goan in Iarthar Lifi in quo cecidit Cremtann mac Aedo filii Senaich, Rex Lageniorum.*"—*Ann. Ul.*

"A. D. 633.—The battle of Ath Goan in Iarthar Lifi, in quo cecidit Cremmthann mac Aedo mac Senaigh, *Rex Lageniorum*: Faelan mac Colmain mic Conaill mic Suibhne, *Rex Midia*, et Failbe Flann, *Rex Momoniae, victores erant.*"—*Ann. Tig.*

"*Maelduin, the son of Aedh Bennain.*—

banquet for thee, and each brings what he can to that banquet, and our mite is the quantity of eggs we are carrying." "I am thankful for it," said the king. They were conducted into the palace, and a dinner *sufficient* for a hundred was given to them of meat and ale. This the man consumed, and did not give any part of it to the woman. Another dinner *sufficient* for a hundred was given them, and the woman alone consumed it. They demanded more, and another dinner for a hundred was given them, and both of them together consumed it. "Give us food," said they, "if ye have it." "By our word we shall not," said Casciabhach, the king's *Rechtairè*, "till the men of Erin in general shall come to the feast." The others then said, "Evil shall it be to you that we have partaken of the banquet first, for the men of Erin shall be quarrelsome at it, for we are of the people of *Infernus*." And they predicted great evils to the multitudes, and afterwards rushed out, and vanished into nothing".

After this were invited to the banquet the provincial kings of Erin and her dynasts and chieftains, with their young lords and life-guards, and also the professors of every science, ordinary and extraordinary. These were the provincial kings of Erin at that time, viz., Congal Claen, the son of Scannlan, in the government of Ulster, Crimthann, the son of Aedh Cirr', in the government of Leinster; Maelduin, the son of Aedh Bennain", in the government of Munster; and his brother Illann*, son of Aedh Bennan, over Desmond; and Raghallach, son of Uadach', in the sovereignty of Connaught; and Domhnall,

According to the Annals of Tighernach, the father of this Maelduin died in the year 619. He was the ancestor of the famous family of O'Moriarty, in the county of Kerry, as mentioned in all the genealogical Irish books. Maelduin himself was defeated in the battle of Cathair Cinn Con,

in the year 640, and burned to death in the year 641, on the island of *Inis Cain*.

* *His brother Illann*.—This Illann is not mentioned in any of the Irish Annals.

' *Raghallach Mac Uadach*, King of Connaught, was slain, according to the Annals of Tighernach, in the year 649.

Uadač, i riŋi Connacht, ocur Domnall mac Aeda ferin in aird-riŋi for Erin uairtib rin uile.

Tucta iarum na rloig rin uile, firu, macu, mna, rceo ingena, laečairb, clepčib, co m-baŋar for faicči Dúin na n-geđ oc tečt do točairim na flet do ponta and la Domnall, mac Aeda. Ro eriŋ in riŋ do ferčain faile riŋ na riŋu, ocur arbert pocen duib uile, ol ré, iŋ riŋ ocur riŋain, ocur filio ocur ollum. Ocur arbert riŋ Congal Claen, riŋa dalta ferin, eriŋ, ol ré, do déčrain na flet moipe ril iŋ in dún, ocur dia čairibriuđ, ár at maic do čairibriuđ ocur č' faireriu for nách ní at čirčea.

Teit, din, Congal iŋ in teac a riŋbe in flet, ocur po déčreap uile hi, iŋ biad ocur fin, ocur čormaim, ocur po čoraind a riŋe for riŋ na h-riŋib geđ at conairc ann, ar ba h-ingnad lair, ocur ró čomail mīr a h-riŋ riŋ, ocur iŋ biad riŋ ina dia. Ocur tic amac iari rin, ocur arbert riŋ Domnall, ba dōig lim, ol ré, dia m-bedir riŋu Erenn riŋ riŋ mīra iŋ in dún, co m-biad a n-dairchim bío ocur riŋ ino. Ba buideč in riŋ de rin, ocur teit ferin do deiriu na flet, ocur innirter dō amail po erčain Erpuc Earc Slaine in flet, ocur cec oen no čairčed na h-riŋe do riŋa uada ferin. Ocur at č in riŋ na h-riŋi ocur po iariŋac čia po čomail ní do'n riŋ earbačairiŋ ucut, ol re; ár po riŋer-riŋum in čedna po čomelad ni do'n flet ocur ri ar na h-erčaine, cumad de riŋčad Erind do milled, ocur a čimpeir-riŋum do čenum; conid de rin po iariŋac rčela in riŋe ucut. Arbertadar cách, Congal, ol iat, do dalta ferin, iŋ e po čomail in riŋ. Ba briŋac in riŋ de rin, ár ni riŋbe a n-Erin neac bud meara lair do čomail na flet ar tur iná Congal,

^a *To view the great feast*.—Do déčrain na flet moipe. The verb déčrain, *to see*, or *view*, which is now obsolete, is changed in Mac Morissy's copy to o'féc-

aint, which is the form still in common use.

^a *The broken egg*.—Do'n riŋ earbačairiŋ ucut. The word earbačairiŋ is supplied

Domhnall, the son of Aedh himself, in the sovereignty of Erin, over all these.

All these hosts, men, youths, women, and damsels, laity and clergy, were conducted to the Green of Dun na n-Gedh to partake of the feast prepared there by Domhnall, the son of Aedh. The monarch rose up to welcome the kings, and said, "My love to you all both king and queen, poet and ollave;" and he said to Congal Claen, his own foster-son, "Go," said he, "to view^a the great feast which is in the palace, and to estimate it, for good is thy survey and examination of whatsoever thou seest."

Then Congal entered the house in which the feast was prepared, and viewed it all, both viands and wine, and ale, and he laid his eye upon the goose eggs which he saw there, for he marvelled at them, and he ate a part of one of them, and took a drink after it. He then came out and said to Domhnall, "I think," said he, "if the men of Erin were to remain for three months in the palace, that there is a sufficiency of food and drink for them there." The king was thankful for this, and went himself to take a view of the feast; and he was told how Bishop Erc of Slaine had cursed the feast, and every one who should partake of the eggs which had been taken away from him; and the king saw the eggs, and asked who ate a part of the broken egg^a (pointing to that which Congal had broken), for he knew that the first *person*^b who should partake of the banquet which had been cursed, would be the man who would destroy Erin, and disobey himself; wherefore he asked about this egg. All replied, "It was Congal, thy own foster-son, that ate of the egg." The king was sorrowful for this, for he felt more grieved that Congal should have
partaken

from the paper copy. Ucut is the ancient form of the modern úo, i. e. that, or yon.

^b The first person,—In céona, is now

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obsolete, an céao uime being substituted in its place; but it is constantly used in the ancient MSS. to denote the *first* person or thing.

E

Corgal, ar porpiter-rum a m-íall ocur a olc co memc ppor
poime rin. Ocur arbert in rig iar rin, ní toimela neach ní do'n
pleb ra, ol re, co tuctar n. arbdal na h-Épenn dia bennacab,
ocur dia coireasgab, ocur gu ra cuipet a h-ercaine for culu dia
caempabir.

Tucta iarum na naeim rin uile co h-oen inab, co m-batar
in in dun la Domnall. Ite runn anmanna na naem do deacabap
ann rin .i. Finden Muigi bile, ocur Finden Cluana h-Irair, ocur
Colum Cilli, ocur Colum mac Crimthainn, ocur Ciapan Cluana
mic noir, ocur Caindech mac h-Ui Dalann, ocur Comgall beann-
cáir, ocur Brenainn mac Findloga, ocur Brenainn bipoir, ocur
Ruadan Lotra, ocur Ninid Crabbec, ocur Mobí Clapaineach,
ocur Molairí mac Natppoich. Ite rin n. arbdal na h-Épenn
ocur

^c *The twelve apostles, &c.*—In Mac Mor-
issy's copy, we read na Ép. decc na
h-Éipionn, the *twelve Bishops of Erin*,
which seems more correct; but it is strange
that there are thirteen, not twelve, saints
mentioned in both copies.

^d *Finnen of Magh Bile.*—This is another
gross anachronism; for Finnen of Magh Bile,
now Movilla, in the county of Down, died
in the year 576, i. e. 62 years before the
Battle of Magh Rath, "A. D. 576, *Quies*
Finnin Magh Bile."—*Ann. Inisf.*, as cited
by Lanigan, vol. ii. pp. 26, 27.

^e *Finnen of Cluain Iraird*, now Clonard,
in Meath, died in the year 552; so that
we cannot believe that he was present at
this banquet.—See Lanigan's *Ecclesiasti-
cal History of Ireland*, vol. ii. p. 22, and
all the Irish Annals, which place his death
about this period.

^f *Colum Cille.*—St. Columbkille was
born in the year 519, and died in the year
596, in the seventy-seventh year of his
age.—See Lanigan, vol. iii. pp. 244, 245.

^g *Colum Mac Crimthainn*, was abbot of
Tir-da-glas, now Terryglass, in the barony
of Lower Ormond, in the county of Tip-
perary, and died in the same year with
St. Finnen of Clonard, namely, in the year
552.—Lanigan, vol. ii. pp. 71, 75.

^h *Ciaran of Cluain Mic Nois*, now Clon-
macnoise, on the Shannon, in the barony
of Garrycastle, and King's County, died
in the year 549.—Lanigan, vol. ii. pp. 52
and 59.

ⁱ *Cainnech Mac h-Ui Dalann*, the pa-
tron of Aghaboe, in the Queen's County,
died in the year 599, in the eighty-fourth
year of his age.—Lanigan, vol. ii. p. 201.

^j *Comghall of Bennchar.*—St. Comgall,

partaken first of the banquet rather than any other person in Erin, for he had often before experienced his rashness and propensity to evil. And after this the king said, "No one *else* shall partake of this feast, until the twelve apostles^e of Erin are brought to bless and consecrate it, and avert the curse if they can."

All these saints were afterwards brought together, so that they were in the palace with Domhnall. The following are the names of the saints who went thither, viz., Finnen of Magh Bile^d, Finnen of Cluain Iraird^e, Colum Cille^f, Colum Mac Crimhthainn^g, Ciaran of Cluain Mic Nois^h, Cainnech Mac h-Ui Dalannⁱ, Comhghall of Bennchar^j, Brenainn, the son of Finnloga^k, Brenainn of Birra^l, Ruadhan of Lothra^m, Ninnidh the Piousⁿ, Mobhi Claraine^o, and Molaisi, the son of Nadfraech^p. These were the twelve apostles of Erin, and each

patron of Bennchar, now Bangor, in the county of Down, died on the 10th of May, A. D. 601.—Lanigan, vol. ii. p. 63.

^k *Brenainn, the son of Finnloga*, the patron saint of the see of Clonfert, in the county of Galway, was born in the year 484, and died in 577, in the ninety-fourth year of his age.—Lanigan, vol. ii. pp. 28, 30.

^l *Brenainn of Birra*.—St. Brenainn, or Brendan, of Birra, now Birr, or Parsons-town, in the King's County, died on the 29th of November, A. D. 571.—Lanigan, vol. ii. p. 39.

^m *Ruadhan of Lothra*.—St. Ruadan, the patron of Lothra, now Lorrach, in the county of Tipperary, died on the 15th of April, A. D. 584.—Lanigan, vol. ii. p. 233.

ⁿ *Ninnidh the Pious*, the patron of the

parish of Inis Muighe Samh, now Inismacsaint, in the north-west of the county of Fermanagh, was living in the year 530, but the year of his death is uncertain. His bell is still preserved in the museum at Castle Caldwell, near Belleek, in the county of Fermanagh, where the writer of these remarks saw it in the year 1835.—See Lanigan, vol. ii. p. 55, note 173.

^o *Mobhi Claraine*, patron of Glasnaidhen, now Glasnevin, near the city of Dublin, died on the 12th of October, A. D. 545.—See *Four Masters*, *ad ann.* 544, and Lanigan, vol. ii. p. 78.

^p *Molaisi, the son of Nadfraech*, he was the brother of Aengus, the first Christian king of Munster, and died about the year 570.—See Lanigan's *Ecclesiastical History*, vol. ii. p. 188.

It will have been seen from the thirteen

ocur ced naem malle ppi cec naem dib. Do pata uile in lin naem rin do bennaçad ocur do çoirççrað na fleði, ocur ap aí rin tpa níp pécraç a h-epçaine do çup for çúlu, dáig po çomail Congal ní do'n fleði pécú po bennaígeð h-í, ocur ní pécraç a neim pein do çup for çulu.

Ro puidigeð na ploig iar rin; po puid umorpo in piz ap çup ip in imçing ópðai. Ocur ip e ba bér ocur ba ðligeað acu-rum, in çan buð piz o Uib Neill in ðeipçipt no biað for Epino cumað h-e piz Connact no biað for a laim ðeip; máð ó Uib Neill in Tuairçipt umorpo in pizi, piz Ulað no bið for a laim ðeip, ocur piz Connact for a laim çli. Ní h-amlaid rin do pala in aðaiç rin, açç Maelodap Maça, piz noi tpiçha ced Oipçiall, po cui- pçað for çualainð in piz, ocur na cuiçaðaiç ap çena do puidiuçað amail po buí a n-ðan do çaç. Mor olc do teçç ðe iarçain.

Ro ðáileð iarum bíað ocur ðeoç foraið comðap meipça meðap- çaoine; ocur çucta uç geið for méip aiupçizi, i píaðnaiip cec piz ip in tiz; ocur o paining in méip ocur in uç i píaðnaiip Congail Claein, do pizneð miap çpanda do'n méip apçaið, ocur do pizneð uç çipce clum-puaiðe do'n uiz geið, amail po çipçançat páið ó çéin.

preceding notes, that none of these saints could have been present at the Banquet of Dun na n-Gedh, and that either the writer of it was a very inaccurate historian, or that his transcribers have corrupted his text. The entire difficulty could be got over by substituting *bishops* for *apostles*, and by inserting the word *comharba*, i. e. representative or successor, before the names of these saints. The probability, however, is, that the anachronism is an original blunder of the writer himself.

^a *Golden Couch*.—Imçing ópðai. The word imçing is explained in a MS. in the Library of Trin. Col. Dublin, (H. 3. 18.) p. 212, by the modern word *leabaid*, a *bed* or *couch*, which is unquestionably its true sense in this sentence.

^b *Southern Hy-Niall*.—The O'Melaghlinas, now corruptly Mac Loughlins, of Meath, were the heads of the Southern Hy-Niall after the establishment of surnames.

^c *Northern Hy-Niall*.—After the establishment of surnames, the heads of the

each saint of them had one hundred saints along with him. All this number of saints was brought to bless and consecrate the feast, but they were not able to avert the malediction, because Congal had tasted of the feast before it was blest, and the venom of this they were not able to avert.

After this the hosts were seated. First of all the king sat in the golden couch^a, and the custom and law at this time was, that when the monarch of Erin was of the Southern Hy-Niall^b, the king of Connaught should sit at his right hand; but if of the Northern Hy-Niall^b, the king of Ulster should be at his right hand, and the king of Connaught at his left hand. It did not happen so on this night, but Maelodhar^c Macha, king of the nine cantreds of Oirghiall, was placed at the king's *right* shoulder, and the provincial kings were seated where they ought to sit. A great evil afterwards resulted from this.

Meat and drink were afterwards distributed to them, until they became inebriated and cheerful; and a goose egg was brought on a silver dish, before every king in the house; and when the dish and the egg were placed before Congal Claen, the silver dish was transformed into a wooden one, and the goose egg into the egg of a red-feathered hen^d, as prophets had foretold of old. When the Ul-

tonians

Northern Hy-Niall race were the O'Neills and the Mac Loughlins of Tyrone, and the O'Muldorys, O'Canannans, and O'Donnells of Tirconnell.

^c *Maelodhar Macha*, king of Oirghiall. According to the Annals of the Four Masters, Maelodhar Macha was king of all Oirghiall, and died in the year 636, but the more accurate Annals of Ulster and of Tighernach make him only chief of the

territory of Orior—"Rex Orientalium"—and place his death, the former in 640, and the latter in 639.

^d *Red-feathered hen*.—This is an extraordinary miracle, and the first striking result of Bishop Erc's malediction. It would have puzzled even Colgan to reconcile it with the theology of the seventeenth century. The king had intended to offer no insult to Congal, but the curse of St.

céin. Oṡ conncadap Ulaib pín, níí mīad leo pūde na longad
 ocur in dímiad pín no imdiz for a níz .i. for Congal Claen. Ro
 epiz dín gilla ghaba do muinntir Congail .i. Gairi Gano, mac
 Sduagair, ocur arbert: ní pu rén maié duit a noct, a Congail,
 ol ré, at mopa na h-aitirí do padat for a niz in níz anoct .i.
 Maelodap Maća, níz Oirgiall, do cúp ír in inab no pa dú duit-ríu,
 ocur uḡ géoid for méir arḡaid í fíadnairí ceć níz ír in niz acć
 tuí-a ít aenar, ocur uḡ cínce for meir cranba í t' fíadnairí-ríu.
 Ní éapí Congal dia aipe cumad dímiad dó ceć ní fo gebad a
 niz a aibe éapirí ferín. Gup no eipiz an gilla lair an aitepc
 ḡ-cedna do pídír .i. Gairi Gann, ocur arbert in cedna fíí Congal,
 ut díxít.

In cúib pín éaitíre a noct,
 cen uabap, cen imarinoct,
 uḡ cínce o'n níz nárrat car,
 ír uḡ géoid do Maelódap.

Noća n-fítep mírí ríam,
 cumad uaral níz Oirgiall,
 no co paca in Maelodap,
 a niz oil 'ḡá fíadugad.

Da m-beié aḡ oen níz cen ail,
 Cenel Conaill ír Eogair,
 ír Oirgialla fíí ḡnīm n-ḡa,
 nír dulca dó a t' inab-ra.

In

Erc produced a confusion at the banquet,
 and caused a miracle to be wrought which
 offered an indignity to Congal, directly
 contrary to what the king had intended.
 According to the present notions among
 the native Irish about the nature of a

curse, it is to be likened to a wedge with
 which a woodman is cleaving a piece of
 wood: if it has room to go, it will go,
 and cleave the wood; but if it has not, it
 will fly out and strike the woodman him-
 self who is driving it, between the eyes.

tonians had perceived this, they did not think it honourable to sit or eat after their king, Congal Claen, had met such an indignity. After this, a servant of trust of Congal's people, Gair Gann Mac Stugain^v by name, rose and said: "It is not an omen of good luck to thee this night, O Congal, that these great insults have been offered thee in the house of the king; namely, that Maelodhar Macha, king of Oirghiall, should be seated in the place due to thee, and that a goose egg is placed on a silver dish before every king in the house except thee alone, before whom a hen egg is placed on a wooden dish." But Congal did not consider that any thing which he received in the house of his own good foster-father could be an indignity to him, until the same servant rose again and repeated the same suggestion to him, *ut dixit*:

"That meal thou hast taken to-night
 Is without pride, without honour;
 A hen egg from the king who loves thee not,
 And a goose egg to Maelodhar.
 I never had known
 The noble position of the king of Oirghiall,
 Until I beheld Maelodhar,
 Being honoured at the banqueting house.
 Should one king possess, without dispute,
 The race of Conall and Eoghan,
 And the Oirghialla^w with deeds of spears,
 He would not occupy thy place.

This

In the case under consideration St. Erc's curse was,—as the writer of the story wishes us to believe,—deserved, and, therefore, it operated as the saint had intended.

^v *Gair Gann Mac Stugain*.—The name of this servant or minister of Congal is

not recorded in the Irish Annals, nor mentioned in any of the genealogical tables relating to the Clanna Rudhraighe, so that we cannot determine whether he is a real or fictitious character.

^w *Oirghialla*.—The territories of the

In éuib nín go d-teilgíte gaill, .
 tucad duit a tíg Domhnall,
 ar Tair Tann, nar ub plan duit,
 má dá toimh tu in bpoich-cuib. In. c.

Ro ling napaét ocur mipe menman a Congal fíu h-aítepc in óclais rín, ocur no ling in fíu demnáda .i. Tsepíone, a cum-gaipe a éipde, do cummugad ceáa bpoich-comairli dó. Ro epig dín ina fearam, ocur no gab a gaircead fair, ocur no epig a bpué miled ocur a én gaile fo polumain uara, ocur ní éapac aicne for éapac na for nem-éapac in tan rín, amail no pa dual dó ó n-a feara-áair .i. o Conall Cernac, mac Amairgín. Ro ling iarum i fíadhairi in níg, ocur do pala éuib Car Ciabach, peétpaie in níg, Ocur ní pítep Car Ciabac cumad he Congal no beit ann, ocur no paid fíu fíu a n-nad oile, ocur fo gebad biad ocur níg amail fuapatar cach. Oe cuala umoppa Congal an aítepc rín, do pad beim do Char-Chiabac, co n-depna dí leit de i fíadhairi éach. Ocur ba h-uamán la ceé n-oen ip in níg, ocur lap in níg fepín Congal ann rín, o no airigret fepíg fair. Ocur arberp Congal, nar bat uamnac, a níg, ar cib at moia na h-uile do ponair fíu, ní h-uamun duit mío co leic; ocur atberpa a nora fíad cach

Kinel Connell and Kinel Owen had been wrested from the ancient Ultonians, or Clanna Rudhraighe, in the fifth century. His servant here tells Congal, nominal king of Ulster, that if he had full possession of all the province of his ancestors, king Domhnall would take care to have him seated in his legitimate place at the banquet. Congal's territory did not extend beyond the limits of the present counties of Down and Antrim. The Oir-

ghialla, or descendants of the three Collas, who destroyed the Ultonian Palace of Emania in the year 332, had possession of the district comprising the present counties of Louth, Armagh, Monaghan, and Fermanagh; and the races of Conall and Eoghan, the sons of the monarch Niall, had possession of the remaining part of the province, that is, the counties of Tyrone, Derry, and Donegal.

* *Tesiphone*.—From this it would ap-

This meal may foreigners reject
 Given thee in the house of Domhnall,
 Saith Gair Gann, may it not be safe to thee,
 If thou partake of the evil meal."

Fury and madness of mind were excited in Congal by the exhortation of this youth, and the demon fury, Tesiphone², entered the cavity of his heart to suggest every evil counsel to him. He then stood up, assumed his bravery, his heroic fury rose, and his bird of valour¹ fluttered over him, and he distinguished not friend from foe at that time, as was natural for him as a descendant of his ancestor Conall Cearnach³, the son of Amergin. He afterwards rushed into the presence of the king, but Cas Ciabhach⁴, the king's *Rechtaire*, came up to him, not knowing it was Congal who was there, and told him to sit in another place, and that he would get food and drink as well as the rest. But when Congal heard this, he dealt Cas Ciabhach a blow, and divided him in two parts in the presence of all. Then every one in the house, even the king himself, was in dread of Congal, when they perceived anger upon him. But Congal said, "Be not afraid, O king, for although the injuries thou hast done me are great, thou needest not dread me now; and I will now state before all the injuries thou hast done to me. The king who preceded thee
 over

pear that the writer of this story had some acquaintance with the classical writers.

¹ *Bird of valour*.—To what does this allude?

³ *Conall Cearnach*.—He was one of the heroes of the Red Branch, and is the ancestor of O'More, O'Lawler, and the seven tribes of Leix, in the Queen's County, and many other families in various parts of Ireland. Congal's descent from him is given

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in note C, at the end of the volume.

⁴ *Cas Ciabhach* signifies *of the curled hair*. No mention is made of him in the Irish Annals or pedigrees, and it is probable that he is a fictitious character. *Rechtaire* generally signifies, in the ancient Irish language, a lawgiver, a steward or chief manager of the affairs of a prince or king, but in the modern Irish it is used to denote a rich farmer.

F

cach na h-ulcu do ponaip fñim. Ir é ba níz fop Eñinn nemuc-
 ra Suibne Menn, mac Fiaçna, mic Feapadaiz, mic Muiradaiz, mic
 Eogain, mic Neill Nai-giallaiz. Nip bo niaçac tupa do'n níz rin
 iapum, ocur do deçadair do denum çopu fñi h-Ullcu, ocur do
 padab mipi fop alcpom duit om' atairi ocur om' çenel ap çena;
 ocur do padab mnai dom' çenel fepin lim dom' aileamain aguc-
 ra, ocur o do niaçtairiu do éeac po çuipir in mnai n-Ulcaiz dia
 tñi, ocur po çuipir ben doc' çenel fepin dom' alcpam-ra i lub-
 çoit in lip i padadair baçéin. Do pala láa n-and mipi am oenap
 ip in lubçoit cen neac agum çoimed, ocur po epçidair beachu beca
 in lubçuipit la tear na çpene, co tapd beach dib a neim fop mo
 let-ñoiç-ra, çupa claen mo ðuil. Congal Claen mo ainm ap rin.
 Rom ailead lat-ðu iap rin çupa h-indarba tupa o níz Eñenn, o
 Suibne Menn, mac Fiaçna, mic Feapadaiz, ocur do deaçadair
 co níz n-Alban, ocur mipi lat fopir in indarba rin; ocur fo fuapair
 çpauçad mop aici, ocur do ponaipair codac .i. tupa ocur níz
 Alban, ocur po çapringair duit náç ticpad a t'açaiç çén ber muip
 im Eñinn. Do deçadair iapum do cum n-Eñenn ocur do deaçupa
 lat (uapir baðup fop indarba malle fñit). Ro çabpum poit a
 Tpäiç Rudpaize, ocur fo çñipium comairli fñi h-atad m-bic ann.
 Ocur

^b *Suibhne*.—Suibhne, surnamed Menn, was monarch of Ireland from the year 615 to 628, when he was slain at Traigh Brena by Congal Claen, as stated in this story.

^c *Nine Hostages*.—This pedigree of Suibhne agrees with that given by Keating, and all authentic genealogical books.

^d *Garden of the fort*.—The Irish kings and chieftains lived at this period in the great earthen raths or *lisses*, the ruins of which are still so numerous in Ireland.

Ledwich asserts that these forts were built by the Ostmen or Danes, but the remains of them still to be seen at Tara, Taillteann, Emania, Aileach, Rath-Croghan, Aillinn, Dinn-Righ, Knockgraffon, and other well known palaces of the ancient Irish kings, are sufficient to prove that they had been built by the ancient Irish long before the Danes made any descent upon this island.

^e *Bees of the garden*.—Solinus says that there were no bees in Ireland; and it is

over Erin was Suibhne Menn^b, son of Fiachna, son of Feradhach, son of Muiredhach, son of Eoghan, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages^c; thou wert not obedient to that king, and thou didst go to make a treaty with the Ultonians, and I was given in fosterage to thee by my father and my own tribe; a woman of my own tribe was sent with me to nurse me with thee, but when she reached thy house thou didst send the Ultonian woman back to her own country, and thou didst place a woman of thine own tribe to nurse me in the garden of the fort^d in which thou dwelledst. It happened on a certain day that I was left alone in the garden without any one to take care of me, and the little bees of the garden^e rose up with the heat of the sun, and one of them put its venom in one of my eyes, so that my eye became awry, from which I have been named Congal Claen^f. I was nursed by thee until thou wast expelled by the king of Erin, Suibhne Menn, son of Fiacha, son of Feradhach, and then thou didst repair to the king of Alba, taking me along with thee in that exile; and thou didst receive great honour from him, and you formed a treaty, thou and the king of Alba, and he protested to thee that he would not oppose thee as long as the sea should surround Erin. Thou didst afterwards return to Erin, and I returned along with thee, for I was in exile along with thee. We put into port at Traigh Rudhraighe^g, and here we held a short consultation.

mentioned in the Life of St. Modomnoc of Lann Beachaire, now Killbarrick, in Fingal, near the city of Dublin, published by Colgan, in his Acta, SS. 13. Febr., that bees were first introduced into Ireland from Menevia by that saint; but Lanigan has proved that there were bees in Ireland long before the period of St. Modomnoc.—See his Eccles. Hist. vol. ii. pp. 320, 321.

^f *Claen*.—cluon or clæn, i. e. *crooked* or *wry*, and also partial, prejudiced. The word is still used, but usually in the latter sense.—See Note ^k, p. 37.

^g *Traigh Rudhraighe*.—Traigh Rudhraighe was the ancient name of the strand at the mouth of the River Erne, near Ballyshannon, in the county of Donegal.—See *Leabhar Gabhala* of the O'Clerys.

Ocur ir e no παιδιου, ciπεαδ neac po gebeta do eaircelad for nuz
 Erienn, ciπε tan bud nuz tupa for Erienn comad eicean a duetaig
 do legud do'n ei no pasad ann. Do deacupa din ann, a nuz, ar mo
 duetaig do eabairt dam co h-implan in tan bud nuz for Erienn
 tupa; ocur ni no airiui co h-Ailec Néit, ar ir ann bui dom-
 nár in nuz in tan rin. Tic in nuz for in faicéti, ocur dal mor ime
 do peparib Erienn, ocur pe oc imbirte fiodille ior na plogu. Ocur
 tiagru ir in bail cen eadugad do neac, triar na ploguib, co tap-
 our forzum do'n gai, Deair Congail, bui im laim a n-uét in nuz,
 gura ppeagair in coiúti cloiche bui pua dnuim alla triar, ocur go
 pioibe crú a ciúde for iunio in gai, co m-ba marib de. In tan iarium
 po bui an nuz oc blairéct báui do pad upcur do'n fir fiodille bui
 na laim dam-ra, gura bñir in iuil claein bui am éno-ra. Am
 claein peme, am caech iarium. Ro teicret din ploig ocur muinn-
 tui in nuz, ár ba dóig leo tupa ocur fir Alpan do beit imum-ra, o
 po marbur in nuz, Suibne Meno.

Do deacupa for do éenn-ra iarium, ocur po gabair nuzi n-Erienn
 iap

^h *Ailech Neid*,—now Elagh, near Derry, in the county of Donegal. The ruins of the palace of Grianan Ailigh are still to be seen on a hill over Lough Swilly.—See Ordnance Survey of the Parish of Templemore, County Londonderry.

ⁱ *Chess*.—Fíócell certainly means chess, which was a favourite game among the ancient Irish. Fíócell is translated *tabula lusoriae* by O'Flaherty, in his *Ogygia*, p. 311; and it is described in Cormac's Glossary as a quadrangular board with straight spots of *black* and *white*. The following extract from an ancient Irish story, preserved in *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*,

a MS. of the twelfth century, now in the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith of Dublin, will give one an idea of what the Irish writers meant by fíócell or fíé-cell.

“‘What is thy name?’ said Eochaidh. ‘It is not illustrious,’ replied the other, ‘Midir of Brigh Leth.’ ‘Why hast thou come hither?’ said Eochaidh. ‘To play *Fíúchell* with thee,’ replied he. ‘Art thou good at *Fíúchell*?’ said Eochaidh. ‘Let us have the proof of it,’ replied Midir. ‘The queen,’ said Eochaidh, ‘is asleep, and the house in which the *Fíúchell* is belongs to her.’ ‘There is here,’

sultation. And what thou didst say was, that whoever thou shouldst get to betray the king of Erin, thou wouldst be bound to restore his territory to him whenever thou shouldst become king over Erin. I went on the enterprise, O king, for a promise that my patrimony should be wholly restored to me, whenever thou shouldst become monarch of Erin; and I delayed not until I reached Ailech Neid^a, where the king held his residence at that time. The king came out upon the green, surrounded by a great concourse of the men of Erin, and he was playing chess¹ amidst the hosts. And I came into the assembly, *passing* without the permission of any one through the crowds, and made a thrust of my spear, Gearr Congail¹, which I held in my hand, at the breast of the king, and the stone which was at his back responded to the thrust, and his heart's blood was on the head of the javelin, so that he fell dead. But as the king was tasting of death he flung a chess-man which was in his hand at me, so that he broke the crooked eye in my head. I was squint-eyed before, I have been blind-eyed since^k. The hosts and people of the king then fled, thinking that thou and the men of Alba were with me, as I had killed Suibhne Menn, the king.

“I then returned to thee, and thou didst, after this, assume the
sovereignty

said Midir, ‘a no worse *Fúthchell*.’ This was true indeed: it was a board of silver and pure gold, and every compartment on the board studded with precious stones; and a man-bag of woven brass wire. Midir then arranges the Fitchell. ‘Play,’ said Midir; ‘I will not, but for a wager,’ said Eochaidh. ‘What wager shall we stake?’ said Midir. ‘I care not what,’ said Eochaidh. ‘I shall have for thee,’ said Midir, ‘fifty dark-green steeds if thou win the game.’”

¹ *Gearr Congail*,—i. e. the short spear of Congal. Many weapons, utensils, &c., which belonged to distinguished personages were called after them: the crozier of St. Barry of Slieve Bawn, in the county of Roscommon, still preserved, is called Gearr-Barry.

^k *Blind-eyed since*.—This accounts for the double surname given to Congal in the Annals of the Four Masters, in which he is called Congal *Caech* [blind], or Congal *Claon* [squinting].

100. Maib dñ m' a'air-ri 100. Scannal Sciad'letan, ocur
 X t'agra cugut-ra dom' n'gao, amail po gellair f'om. N' po com-
 aillir a n' rin a'c ma' bec, d'ag po benair d'm Cenel Conaill
 ocur Eogain, ocur noi d-eroca ced Oirghiall .i. fearand Maclui-
 oir Ma'ca, fil for do gualaind-riu, ocur do padair h-e a n-inad n'g
 nomum-ra a no'c at t'g f'ir, a n'g, ol re. Ocur do padad u'g
 geoid for meir airgoid ina f'adnair, ocur u'g c'ice for m'ir
 cranda dam-ra. Ocur do biurra cat duit-riu ind, ocur do fearad
 Erenn, mar at'at imut a no'c, ar Congal. Ocur po m'it'g uaidib
 a'na'c iapum, ocur po lenrat Ulaib h-e.

Arbert Domnall f'ri naemu Erenn badar i' in t'g: leanad
 Congal, ol re, ocur t'icead lib, co taradair a f'ir f'ir d'o. T'ia-
 gair na naem ina diaid ocur po gellrat a earcaine mine t'icead
 leo, ocur a cluic ocur a m-bacla do bein f'air. Do biurra f'am
 gairced, ar Congal, na'c n'ia cleirec uaid ina bechad t'ead in n'g,
 dia n-earcainea m'ir na Ullta'c eli for bit lib. Ro gab dñ omun
 na naem, co n-bead Congal i cein uaidib, ocur po earcainret h-e
 ar a h-aile. Ocur po earcainret dñ in t' Suibne, mac Colmain
 Chuair, m'ic Cobair, n'g Dal n-Araide, ar i' e n'c uaidib go
 h-aimdeona'c in t-inar ilbata'c do pad Domnall i laim [panctur]
 Ronain

¹ *Died soon after.*—Scannall of the Broad Shield, king of Ulidia, is mentioned in the authentic annals as the father of Congal, but the year of his death is not mentioned.

^m *Oirghiall*—The princes of the Clanna Rudhraighe race had not been kings of all Ulster since the year 332 or 333, when they were conquered by the three Collas, as already noticed. It is probable, however, that when Congal undertook to kill

Suibhne Menn, at the instigation of king Domhnall, he got a promise of being made prince of all Ulster, a title which his ancestors had enjoyed for many centuries. See his pedigree, and the number of his ancestors who had been kings of Ulster, in Note C, at the end of the volume.

^a See note ^t, p. 29.

^o *Bells and croziers.*—The ancient Irish saints were accustomed to curse the offending chieftains while sounding their bells

sovereignty of Erin. My father, Scannall of the Broad Shield, died soon after¹, and I came to thee to be made king [of Ulster], as thou hadst promised me. Thou didst not perform thy promise except to a small extent, for thou didst deprive me of Cinel Conaill and Cinel Eoghain, and also of the nine cantreds of Oirghiall^m, the land of Maelodhar Machaⁿ, who now sits at thy shoulder, and whom thou hast seated in the place of a king, in preference to me, this night, in thine own house, O king," said he. "And a goose egg was placed before him on a silver dish, while a hen egg was placed on a wooden dish before me. And I will give battle to thee and the men of Erin in consequence, as thou hast them assembled around thee to-night," said Congal. And he then went out of the house, and the Ultonians followed him.

Domhnall said to the saints of Erin who were in the house, "Follow Congal," said he, "and bring him back, that his own award may be given him by me." The saints went after him and threatened to curse him with their bells and croziers^o, unless he would return with them. "I swear by my valour," said Congal, "that not one cleric^p of you shall reach the king's house alive, if I, or any Ultonian, be cursed by you." Terror then seized the saints, whereupon Congal went far away from them, and they cursed him afterwards. And they also cursed Suibhne^q, the son of Colman Cuar, son of Cobhthach, king of Dal Araidhe^r, for it was he that had carried away from them by force the many-coloured tunic which [king] Domhnall had given into the hand of

with the tops of their croziers.

^p *Cleric*.—The word *cléipec*, a *cleric* or *derk*, which is derived from the Latin word *clericus*, is used throughout this story to denote a priest.

^q *Suibhne*, the son of Colman Cuar,

king of Dal Araidhe, is not mentioned in the Irish Annals, though he seems to be a historical character.

^r *Dal Araidhe*, a celebrated territory in Ulster, comprising the entire of the present county of Down and that part of

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Ronain Finn, mic Beraig, dia tabairt do Congal; ocur ó nó fémiḡ Congal in t-inar rin, do beirt Suibne á laim in cleirig dia aindeóin inar in rig. Conid do'n epcaine rin do ionrac for Congal no paided runn:

Congal Claen

in gáir tucsumar nír fæm,
cetnar ar fíct, ní breḡ,
imride céo leir ceð naem.

In mac nod,

for a tuc'am in gairi cloḡ
noðar dulca dó 'r in caé,
cúo rime do beir raé bog.

Mor in nó,

gémad uairi, gemad lia,
in fer, gá m-bí teéta rig,
ir leir co fír cunḡnar Dia.

Mor in col,

comann fír rig Daire drol,
ferann do tabairt 'n a laim,
ir e in cnam a m-bel na con.

Arbert Domnall iar rin fír fílebu Epenn coibeét i n-diaid Congail dia parcuð. Tiaḡait tra na fílið ina diaid: ac cí Congal na fíliðu cúici, ocur arbert, no cailled eineac Ulad co bráé, ol re, uair ní éarðram innmuir do na fíleðuib ir in tig n-óil, ocur a táé aḡ toét anora diai n-ḡrísad in ar n-diaid. Tíciat na fílið co h-airm a m-bui Congal, ocur fepaid rium failci fíru, ocur

Antrim lying south of the mountain Sliabh Mis, now Slemmish.

¹ *St. Ronan Finn*, the son of Berach, was

abbot of Druim Ineasclainn, in the territory of Conaille Muirtheimhne, now Anglicised Drumiskin, in the county of Louth, not

of St. Ronan Finn¹, the son of Berach, to be presented to Congal; but as Congal had refused to accept of the king's tunic, Suibhne took it from the cleric's hand in despite of him. It was on this curse, which they pronounced on Congal, that the following lines were composed:

Congal Claen

Heeded not the curse we gave,

Four and twenty saints *we were*—no falsehood,

Each saint having the intercessory influence of a hundred.

The daring son,

Against whom we raised the voice of bells,

Should not to the battle go,

Though soft prosperity were before him.

Great the happiness,

That, whether few or many *be* his hosts,

The man who has the regal right

Him truly God will aid.

Great the profaneness,

To contend with the king of noble Dairè;

To give land into his [Congal's] hand

Is to give a bone into the dog's mouth.

After this Domhnall desired the poets of Erin to go after Congal to stop him. The poets set out after Congal: Congal perceived the poets coming towards him, and exclaimed, "The munificent character of Ulster is tarnished for ever, for we gave the poets no presents at the banqueting house¹, and they are following us to upbraid us." The poets came on to where Congal was, and he bade them welcome, and gave

Drumshallon, as Lanigan thinks. He died in the year 664.—See Colgan, *Acta SS.* p. 141, and Lanigan, vol. iii. p. 52.

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¹ *Banqueting house*.—A king always considered it his duty to give presents to poets at public banquets and assemblies.

G

ocur do beirt maíne moira doib, ocur indoiric a rcelá dó. Atebert
 rum na gebat coma fori bié ó' n níg aét cat i n-digail a dimiada
 ocur a earonora; ocur no eimig dol leo. Fagbur na filio ar a
 h-aíle, ocur tiomnair celeabrad doib, ocur teid poime ir in cuiged
 go raimig go teac Ceallais, mic Fiacna Finn .i. bratair aetar
 Congail, ocur inniur a rcelá do o'cur co deiréad. Ba reanoir cian-
 aoi'da an tí Cellac; ocur ni cluinead aét maó bec, ocur ni éim-
 niged for a coraib, ocur tolz cpeduma im a leapaio, ocur reirium
 innti do gper. Ba laec amra h-e i turac a airi. Cein bui Congal
 oc inniur rcel do, no noét rum a cloidem no bui lair fa éom cen
 fir do neoc gor ériónuig Congal a comraó, ocur arbert, do biurra
 bréitir, dia n-gabta coma for bié o'n níg aét cath, nác fédpadís
 Ulaio h' eadpaim forim-ra, co clandaind in cloidem ra triot ériúe
 rectair; uair ni ber d' Ulltaib coma do gabail fpi poind cata no
 co n-diglaic a n-anfolta. Ocur a tát peét macu maiéi ocum-ja
 ocur pagait lat ir in cat, ocur dia caempaind-ri féin dula ann, no
 pagaind, ocur ni moirped for Ulltaib cén no beind-ri im beataio.
 Ocur atbert ann :

A mic, na geb-ri cen cat,
 cib ríó iarrur níg Tempac;
 maó pomut raib, ferri do gnim,
 maó forr, do faet do comlin.
 Na geib reodu na maíne,
 aét maó cindu deg-daine,
 co na tuca níg ele,
 táir ar clandais Rudraige.

Luga

^u *Cellach, the son of Fiachna.*—See Note C, at the end of the volume, where the pedigree of Congal is given.

^v *Tolg.*—Tolz is explained leabaio, a

bed, by P. Connell, in his MS. Dictionary.

^w *The race of Rudhraige, the ancient Ultonians, of whom a long line of kings had dwelt at Emania, were at this period*

gave them great presents, and they told him their embassy. He replied, that he would receive no condition from the king but a battle, in which to take revenge for the indignity and dishonour offered him; and he refused to return with them. He then left the poets, and bade them farewell, and proceeded on his way through the province until he arrived at the house of Cellach, the son of Fiachna", his own father's brother, to whom he related the news from beginning to end. Cellach was an extremely aged senior; he heard but a little; he did not walk on his feet, but had a brazen tolg' as his bed, in which he always remained; but he had been a renowned hero in the early part of his life. While Congal was telling him the news, he exposed his sword, which he held concealed under his garment unknown to all until Congal had finished his discourse, and said, "I pledge thee my word, that shouldest thou receive any considerations from the king but a battle, all the Ultonians could not save thee from me, because I would thrust this sword through thy heart; for it is not the custom of the Ultonians to accept of considerations in place of battle until they take revenge for insults. I have seven good sons, and they shall go with thee into the battle, and if I were able myself I would go also, and the Ultonians should not be defeated while I had life. And he said on the occasion:

"My son, be not content without a battle,
 Though Tara's king should sue for peace;
 If thou conquer, the better thy deed,
 If thou be defeated, thou shalt slay an equal number.
 Accept not of jewels or goods,
 Except the heads of good men,
 So that no other king may offer
 Insult to the race of Rudhraighe".

Less

scattered over various parts of Ireland, as part of them who remained in their original province, were shut up within the

Luga fáth Scannail na ríat,
 da tuc cat i' Cuan Chiac,
 dar éir ceand Cuain ar clud,
 tre no ráo gur éir Scannul.
 Fí' a n-deadai' mo réct mac,
 o na'c fédaim-rí dul lat,
 da m-bedir tinnol bud mo,
 do ra'gda' at ro'ra'ideo.
 Cec cat mor tuc h' a'air ríam,
 rea'nón Erenn, air i' tair,
 m'í do b'í for a deir,
 m'ic mo de'bra'at d'í'í !
 In cat mor tuc h' a'air éir,
 d'á tuc á'í for F'rangca'ab,
 re rí'í ra-álan na F'rangc,
 t'í'í na'c ar me'bra'ab mac, a m'ic.

Α míc.

Arberc umorho in renoir rí'í, eir' in Albain, ol re, do í'airí'í
 do í'en-a'ar, .i. Eochaidh Buidhe, mac Aedain, m'ic Gabraí'í, í' e í'
 rí'í for Albain; ar í' inge'n d'ó do ma'air, ocu' inge'n rí'í d'í'et'í,
 .i. Eochaid Aingce'í, ben rí'í Alban, do í'en-ma'air, .i. ma'air do
 ma'ar; ocu' taba'í'í lat rí'í'í Alban ocu' d'í'et'í'í ar in n-gael rí'í
 do cum n-Erenn do é'abairc ca'á do'n rí'í.

ba

present counties of Down and Antrim. Lough Neagh and the Lower Bann separated them from the Kinel-Owen, and the celebrated trench called the Danes' Cast, formed the boundary between them and the Oirghialla.

^x *King of France*.—There is no authority for this to be found in the authentic Irish Annals, and it must therefore be re-

garded as poetic fiction.

^y *Eochaidh Buidhe*, king of Scotland.—

This king is mentioned by Adamnan in the ninth chapter of the first book of his Life of Columba, where he calls him "Eochodius Buidhe." His death is set down in the Annals of Ulster, at the year 628. "*Mors Echdach Buidhe Regis Pictorum, filii Aedain. Sic in Libro Cuanac inveni.*"

Less cause had Scannal of the Shields,
 When he and Cuan of Cliach fought a battle,
 When he fixed Cuan's head upon a wall,
 Because he had said that Scannal had withered.
 Send for my seven sons,
 As I myself cannot go with thee;
 Were they a greater number
 They should join thy army.
 In every great battle which thy father ever fought
 Throughout Erin, east and west,
 I was at his right hand,
 O son of my loyal brother!
 And in that great battle thy father fought in the east,
 (In which he slaughtered the Franks,)
 Against the very splendid king of France*;
 Understand that this was no boyish play, my son!
My son," &c.

The old man also said, "Go to Alba," said he, "to thy grandfather Eochaidh Buidhe', the son of Aedhan, son of Gabhran, who is king of Alba; thy mother is his daughter, and thy grandmother, that is, thy mother's mother, the wife of the king of Alba, is the daughter of the king of Britain, that is, of Eochaidh Aingces"; and through this relationship bring with thee the men of Alba and Britain to Erin, to give battle to the king."

Congal

If this date be correct, which it most likely is, this is another anachronism by the writer of the story.

* *Eochaidh Aingces*, king of Britain.—
 No such king is to be found in the histories of Britain; and he must therefore be regarded as a fictitious personage. The

writer of the story, not knowing who was king of Britain, i. e. of Wales, at this period, was under the necessity of coining a name to answer his purpose; unless we suppose our extant sources of Welsh history to be defective.

ba buidec iapum in ti Congal do'n comairle ioin; ocur céit i n-Alpáin ced laec a lín, ocur ni po aipir for muir na tiri co riact co Dún monaid, ait a m-bui rig Alban, .i. Eochaid buide, ocur maici Alban in oen dail ime and. Do pala sin do Congal allamuis do'n dail, éicef ocur filid in rig .i. Dubdaib Drai a ainmride; ba firig ocur ba drai amra in ti Dubdaib; ocur po fer pailti fpi Congal, ocur po iapfact pcela dó, ocur po innir Congal a pcela. Comid ann arbert Dubdaib, ocur ppegnar Congal he:

Ir mo cen in loingur leir,
do comairc a h-etercéin;
can bair cenel, clu cen ail,
ca tiri ar a tancabair?
Tancamar a h-Epinn air,
á oclair uallair, innair,
ir do tancamar ille
b' acallaim Eachach buide.

Ma

* *Dun Monaidh*.—A place in Scotland, where the kings of the Dalriadic or Ibero-Scotic race resided. It is now called Dunstaffnage, and is situated in Lorne.—See Gough's Camden, vol. iv. p. 129.

^b *Druid*.—In the times of Paganism in Ireland every poet was supposed to possess the gift of prophecy, or rather to possess a spirit capable of being rendered prophetic by a certain process. Whenever he was desired to deliver a prophecy regarding future events, or to ascertain the truth of past events, he threw himself into a rhapsody called *Imbas for Osa*, or *Teinm Loegh-dha*, during which the true images of these events were believed to have been portrayed before his mind. The following de-

scription of the *Imbas for Osa*, as given in Cormac's Glossary, will show that it was a humbug not unlike the Magnetic sleep of modern dreamers. "*Imbas for Osa*.—The poet discovers through it whatever he likes or desires to reveal. This is the way it is done: the poet chews a piece of the flesh of a red pig, or of a dog or cat, and he brings it afterwards on a flag behind the door, and chants an incantation upon it, and offers it to idol gods; and his idol gods are brought to him, but he finds them not on the morrow. And he pronounces incantations on his two palms; and his idol gods are also brought to him, in order that his sleep may not be interrupted; and he lays his two palms on his two cheeks, and thus

Congal was thankful; he set out for Alba with one hundred heroes, and made no delay upon sea or land, till he arrived at Dun Monaidh^a, where Eochaidh Buidhe, king of Alba, was with the nobles of Alba assembled around him. Congal met, outside the assembly, the king's sage and poet, Dubhdiadh, the Druid, by name, who was a seer and distinguished Druid^b; he bade Congal welcome, and asked news of him, and Congal related all the news to him. And Dubhdiadh said, and Congal replied:

Dubhdiadh.—"My affection is the bright fleet
Which I have espied at a great distance;
Declare your race of stainless fame,
And what the country whence ye came."

Congal.—"We have come from noble Erin,
O proud and noble youth,
And we have come hither
To address Eochaidh Buidhe."

Dubhdiadh.

falls asleep; and he is watched in order that no one may disturb or interrupt him, until every thing about which he is engaged is revealed to him, which may be a minute, or two, or three, or as long as the ceremony requires: *et ideo Imbas dicitur*, i. e. *di bois ime*, i. e. his two palms upon him, i. e. one palm over and the other across on his cheeks. St. Patrick abolished this, and the *Teinm Loeghdha*, and he declared that whoever should practise them would enjoy neither heaven nor earth, because it was renouncing baptism. *Dicheddul do chenduibh* is what he left as a substitute for it in the *Corus Cerda* [the Law of Poetry], and this is a proper substitute,

for the latter requires no offering to demons."

These practices, about which so little has been said by Irish antiquaries, must look extraordinary to the philosophic inhabitants of the British Isles in the nineteenth century. But it is highly probable that some of the more visionary Germans will think them quite consonant with the nature of the human soul; for in the year 1835, a book was published at Leipsic, by A. Steinbeck, entitled "Every Poet a Prophet; a Treatise on the *Essential* Connection between the Poetic Spirit and the Property of Magnetic Lucid Vision."

Ma feadh tancabair ille,
 d'acallaim Eachach buide,
 ar tordecht dib uar cec leir,
 a deirim riob ir mo cen. Ir mó c.

Do taed Congal ir in dáil a paibe riog Alban iar rin, ocur
 fepaid in riog ocur riou Alban failti friu, ocur po innir a icela
 doib o thur co déig. Arbert riog Alban friu Congal, ni dam cuim-
 geac-ra for dul let in adairi riog Erienn i ceand caeta, ar in tan po
 h-indarbeta eiriun a h-Erienn fuaui anoir agum-ra ocur do ronnun
 córu ann rin, ocur po éarriugairiura do, ocur do radur breithir
 friu na pagaidn i ceand caeta ina agaid co bpat. Ar ai rin tra,
 ni ba lúgaidi do rocpaidi-riu cen mui do dul leat, ol re, uair
 atad ceirari mac ocuin-ia .i. Aed in eiriud uaine, ocur Suibne, ocur
 Congal Meand, ocur Domnall breac, a rinneir, .i. briaire matar
 duir-riu. Ir acu-rin atat amrai ocur anrai Alban, ocur pag-
 nait lat-riu do cum n-Erienn do éabairt caeta do Domnall. Ocur
 eiriuri fein dia n-agallaim airm a pileo ocur maite Alban impu.
 Teit iarum Congal go maigin a m-batur, ocur fepait failti friu;
 ocur po innir doib aiteir in riog, ocur ba maite leo.

X Arbert Aed in eiriud uaine rógar na mac, maó áil duir-riu, a
 Congail, beite im éig-ri anocht for pleio, tiagra lat do cum
 n-Erienn, ocur in ceiramat pann d' Albain imum, ocur minub am
 thig biaru a noct, ní teir lat do cum in caeta. Arbert Congal
 Mend, mac Eachach buide, ní pa friu rin, a Aed, ol re, act ir
 im éig-rea biar riog Ulad anocht, dáig dia n-deacarra lair tic-
 páru lim, ár ir ocum-ia atai. Ba h-e rin, din, riad Suibne ocur
 Domnall

^c *Domhnall Brec*.—This Domhnall Brec, who was king of Scotland when the Battle of Magh-Rath was fought, is mentioned

by his cotemporary Adamnan in the fifth chapter of the third book of his *Life of Columba*.—See *Trias Thaum*, p. 365, col. i.

Dubhdiadh.—"If ye have come hither
 To confer with Eochaidh Buidhe,
 After your arrival over the sea,
 I say unto you *accept* my affection."

After this, Congal went into the assembly in which the king of Alba was; and the king and the men of Alba bade him welcome, and he told them his story from beginning to end. The king of Alba said to Congal, "It is not in my power to go with thee to fight a battle against the king of Erin, because when he was banished from Erin he received honour from me; and we made a covenant, and I promised him, and pledged my word, that I would never go to oppose him in battle. However, thy forces will not be the less numerous because I go not along with thee," said he, "for I have four sons, viz., Aedh of the Green Dress, Suibhne, Congal Menn, and Domhnall Breac, the eldest, thy maternal uncles; it is they who have the command of the soldiers and heroes^d of Alba, and they shall go with thee to Erin to give battle to Domhnall. And go thyself to confer with them where they are *at present* surrounded by the men of Alba." Congal then went to where they were, and they bade him welcome; and he told them the king's suggestion, and they liked it.

Aedh of the Green Dress, the youngest of the sons, said, "If thou shouldest wish, O Congal, to stop this night at a banquet in my house, I will go with thee to Erin with the fourth part of the forces of Alba; and if thou wilt not stop at my house to-night, I will not go with thee to the battle." Congal Menn, the son of Eochaidh Buidhe, said, "This will not be the case, O Aedh, but the king of Ulster shall stop this night at my house, for if I go with him thou shalt accompany me, because thou art under my control." And the sayings of Suibhne

^d *Heroes*.—ἄνθρωπος is explained λαός, *a* the Leabhar Breac, fol. 40, *b*; and *cham-hera*, by O'Clery; γέρας, *a champion*, in *pion, hero*, by Peter Connell.

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Suibhne and Domhnall Brec were similar. Domhnall Brec said, "If the king of Ulster remain in my house to-night, and if I go with him you three shall accompany me, for I am your senior, and it was I who gave you lands." Congal was sorry for the contention among the king's sons about himself; and he went through the assembly, and Dubhdiadh, the Druid, met him, to whom he mentioned the desire of the sons of the king. Dubhdiadh said, "Be not sorry for this, O Congal, for I will remedy thy sorrow: go now to them, and tell them, that thou wilt stop with that one of them who shall obtain the regal cauldron which is in the king's house, to prepare food for thee, and that the person who will not get the cauldron is not to be displeased with thee in consequence, but with the king." Congal went to where the sons of the king were, and told them what Dubhdiadh had desired him. They liked this, and said that they would do as he wished.

Then Aedh, the son of Eochaidh Buidhe, told his wife to go and ask the cauldron of the king. She went and said, that "it was in her house that Congal and the chiefs of Ulster and Alba would stop, and that the Caire Ainsicen ought to be given to prepare food for them."

Why was it called Caire Ainsicen? It is not difficult *to tell*. It was the "caire," or cauldron, which was used to return his own proper share to each, and no party ever went away from it unsatisfied, for whatever quantity was put into it there was never boiled of it but what was sufficient for the company according to their grade and rank. It was a cauldron of this description that was at Bruighin hua Derga^c, where
Conaire

son of Edersgeol, was king of Ireland for 80 years. After the first plundering of Bruighin da Berga, the palace of Conaire Mor, the son of Edersgeol, Ireland was divided into five parts, between Concho-

bhar Mac Nessa, Coirpre Niafer, Tighearnach Tedbannach, Deghaidh, son of Sin, and Ailill, son of Madach and Meave of Cruachain, in Connaught." See also O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, p. 131.

rin bui a m-bruighin hua Derga, in po marbta Conaire, mac
 Meri buachalla, ocur i m-bruighin blai bruga, aic a m-bui ben
 Celcáir, mic Uichir; ocur i m-bruighin Forgaill Monac, i taeb
 Lurca; ocur i m-bruighin mic Cecht, for Sleib Fuirri; ocur i
 m-bruighin mic Dathó, áic in po laad ár Connacht ocur Ulad imon
 muic n-íoráic; ocur i m-bruighin da Choga, in po marbta Cormac
 Conlonguir, ocur ár Ulad ime; ocur ag rígh Alban ir in aimir rin.

Arbepc in rígh fíri mnai a mic, cia maic fíl for do céile-ríu
 reach ríu Alban uile in tan do beiríod-rí mo áicre dó? Arbepc
 rí, ní po eirígh neac im ní ríam; moó a eiríac oídar bíc. Uc
 uíre mulier:

Ní fuair Aed, ní fúigebá
 ní do céileo for duine,
 ir léitíu for a eiríach,
 ina in bíc bídeac buide.

Seoid in talman taeb uaine,
 a fuair duine ocur daenna,
 re h-athair na h-oen uairé,
 ní beoir i laim Aeda.

A caitep re h-aigedair
 'g á éiríur brácar, meo n-uailí,
 cuiréi rin ar faen-beirí,
 ag Aed in éiríod uaim.

N.

Arbepc

^f *Bruighin Blai Bruga*.—Copies of a tale in which reference is made to a similar cauldron at Bruighin Blai Bruga, are preserved in the MS. Library of Trinity College (H. 2. 18. and H. 3. 18.)

^g *Lusca*, now Lusk, in the county of Dublin. The name signifies a cave.

^h *Sliabh Fuirri*, is now corruptly called Sliabh Mhuiri, and is situated near Castle Kelly, in the parish of Killeroran, in the north-east of the county of Galway.

ⁱ *Bruighin Mic Dathó*.—A copy of a tale, in which the magical cauldron of Bruighin Mic Dathó is introduced, is preserved in

Conaire, the son of Meisi Buachalla, was slain; and at Bruighin Blai Bruga^f, where the wife of Celtchair, the son of Uithir, was; and at Bruighin Forgaill Monach, alongside Lusca^g; and at Bruighin Mic Cecht, on Sliabh Fuirri^h; and at Bruighin Mic Dathóⁱ, where the Connacians and Ultonians were slaughtered *contending* about the celebrated pig; and at Bruighin Da Choga^j, where Cormac Conlonguis was slain and his Ultonians slaughtered around him; and such also the king of Alba had at this time.

The king said to the wife of his son, "In what is thy husband better than all the men of Alba that I should give my cauldron to him?" She replied, "He never refused any one any thing; his hospitality exceeds the world:" ut dixit mulier:

"Aedh has not received, will not receive
A thing he would refuse any man;
His bounty moreover is more extensive
Than the vast prolific world.

The jewels of the green-faced earth,
Which man or mortal has found,
For the space of one hour,
Would not remain in the hand of Aedh.

What is spent on guests
By his three brothers of great pride,
Would be placed on small spits
By Aedh of the Green Apparel.

Aedh has not," &c.

The

the MS. Library of Trinity College (H. 3. 18.) This place is now unknown.

^j *Bruighin da Choga*. — A copy of the story of the cauldron at this place is in the same MS. *Bruighin-da-Choga*, the situation of which none of our Topographers

have pointed out, lies near Ballyloughloe, in the county of Westmeath, six miles to the north-east of Athlone. A stone castle was here erected by the family of Dillon within the primitive Irish *Bruighin* or fort. The place is now called Breenmore.

Árberc in níg, ní éiberra in cairne duit-rí coileic. Tíe rí do raigíod a rí, ocur innuiriú aithepc in níg do. Árberc Congal Mendo, mac Eachach buíod, rí a íeicig ferin dul for iarrair in coipe. Teit iarrim ocur ríod in cairne do biatad níg Ulad. Árberc in níg, cia maié fil forc cheile iú ó do beréa in coipe do tar in mac dia ro ríed h-é gur tarta? Árberc rí nír fil mac níg ír ferr oldar Congal. Cinnid for cáe comlann, ocur fo gíad a armu díler don andíler in tan bepar a tír aníul íat; Ue. díe mulier:

Congal Mendo,

nír faca mac níg buí ferr,
mar epomaid cách ír in cleit,
ar rcát a rceit, caegad ceand.

In uair bepar airim Congal
a tír aníul, fáe n-éidig,
do mítep tír díler dí,
do'n tír aníul ar eicín.

In uair ríller ben Congal
ar oglac n-alaind n-oll-blad,
ní anann aga togarim,
in fer dan comainm Congal!

Congal. m.

Ro éir an níg imon g-coipe an bean, ocur tíg ríde amach ocur inuiriú d'á céile a n-debairc in rí ríia. Árberc Domnall breac rí a mnai dol d'iarraid in coipe gur in níg. Tainic ríde co h-airim a m-bui in níg, ocur ríod in coipe. Ro iarracé ríod dí cia maié fil forc céilí ríu reac ná macu ele dia ro cuindged in coipe? Ferrigairc rí, ní tuille buíde rí nách níg in tí Domnall breacc; gémad

^k *Unlawful property*,—i. e. he conquers law of the sword, which could not otherwise have become his own.

The king said, "I will not give thee the cauldron as yet." She then returned to her husband, and told him what the king had said. Congal Menn, the son of Eochaidh Buidhe, told his wife to go and ask the cauldron. She went accordingly, and asked the cauldron to prepare food for the king of Ulster. The king said, "What goodness is in thy husband that he should obtain the cauldron in preference to the son for whom it was just now sought?" She replied, "There is no king's son better than Congal. He obtains the victory in every battle, and his arms, when they are brought into a foreign country, make lawful what was unlawful property^k;" ut dixit mulier:

"Than Congal Menn

I have not seen a better king's son,
As all stoop in the battle
Under the shelter of his shield, even a hundred heads.
When the arms of Congal are brought
To a foreign country,—cause of jealousy,—
A lawful country is made of it,
Of the foreign country by force.
When the wife of Congal glances
At a beauteous youth of renown,
The man whose name is Congal
Cares not to accuse her^l!

Than Congal," &c.

The king refused to give her the cauldron, and she came away and related all the king had told her. Domhnall Brec told his wife to go and ask the cauldron from the king, and she went to where the king was, and asked the cauldron. He asked her, "What good is in thy husband beyond the other sons for whom the cauldron was asked?" She replied, "Domhnall Brec has not earned thanks from any

^l By these words the wife of Congal wishes king Eochaidh to understand that his son Congal was not of a jealous disposition, —a very strange qualification of a chieftain.

gémad ór Shlab Monaid nor fogailfed fíu h-oen uair; ní ro gab
airm mac níg ír deach oldar Domnall brec. Ut dixit mulier:

Domnall brec,

Domnall mac Echach buide,
re níg, d' feabur a menma,
ní depra cuillium buide.

Ír fíu cáca n-abraim-rí,
foclairidit fíu fíu fíu,
da mad ór Shlab mor Monaid,
nor fogail, ír nír fíu níg.

Ír fíu cáca n-abraim-rí,
a níg, cept in da comland,
nac ar gab Albain cen feall,
níg buo fíu ina Domnall.

D. b.

Tic in mnai fín co h-airm i m-bui a ceile, ocur inníu aítepe
in níg, ocur a h-éra immon g-coipe. Aítepe Suibne fíu a mnai
fíu, eirg, ol re, ocur cuiníu in coipe. Tic íu iapum ocur
cuiníu in coipe. Ro riappaig in níg, cia buaid fíu fíu ceili-ríu,
a ingen, ol re, tar na macu ele, o tanguir d' iapaid in coipe.
Fíu fíu fíu fíu, bíd ceiríu im lepaíd in oen fíu, ocur in t-oen-fíu
im cuiníu in ceiríu a tíg Suibne, ocur in lín bíte ina fearam ann
ní tallat 'na fíu fíu ocur in lín tallat 'na fíu fíu ní tallat 'na
lígíu; ced corinn ocur ced eapra n-airgít fíu dail leanna ann do
gíu; Ut dixit mulier:

Teach Suibne,

Suibne níc Eachach buide
a toill ind ina fearam,
ní toillit ina fíu.

α

^m *Sliabh Monaidh* was the ancient name far from the palace of Dun Monaidh.—See
of a mountain in Lorne, in Scotland, not Note ^a, p. 46.

any king; were Sliabh Monaidh^m of gold he would distribute it in one hour; no king ever ruled Alba better than Domhnall Brec:" ut dixit mulier:

" Domhnall Brec,

Domhnall, son of Eochaidh Buidhe,

From any king, through the goodness of his mind,

He has earned no thanks.

All that I say is true, O king!

The poets of the west proclaim it,

If the great Sliabh Monaidh were gold

He would distribute it; he would not hoard it.

All that I say is true,

O king, just in thy battle,

Alba has not been legitimately obtained

By a better king than Domhnall.

Domhnall Brec," &c.

The king refused, and the woman came to where her husband was, and told what the king had said, and how she was refused the cauldron. Suibhne told his wife to go and ask the cauldron. She then went, and asked the cauldron. The king asked, "What qualification does thy husband possess, O daughter, beyond the other sons, that thou shouldst come to ask the cauldron?" She replied, "Four be around the bed of one man, and one man gets the supper of four in the house of Suibhne; and the number which fit in it standing would not fit sitting, and the number which fit in it sitting would not fit in it lying; there are in it constantly one hundred cups and one hundred vessels of silver to distribute ale;" ut dixit mulier:

" The house of Suibhne,

Suibhne, son of Eochaidh Buidhe,

The number which fit in it standing

Would not if sitting,

Α τοιλλ ινδ ινα ρυιδε,
 ιι τοιλλιτ ινα λαιγε.
 οεν ρερ ιμ εινδ ιν σεατραιρ,
 σετραιρ ιμ λεραιδ δυινε.
 Cεδ κορινν οκυρ σεδ κοπαν,
 σεδ τορσ, οκυρ σεδ τινδε,
 ιρ σεδ εαρχρα αιργδυδε
 βιρ ταλλ αρ λαρ ι α ειγε.

Τ.

Ιρ ανη αρβετ ιν ριγ, νάρ βατ δυιδαχ-ρυ, α ινγεν, ολ ρε, αρ
 ατβετ Dubdiao Drai ρριμ-ρα cen ιιο εαιρε δο εταβαιτ δο νεαε
 ele α νοετ, αετ α βειε οcum ρειν οκυρ ριγ Ulaυ, .ι. mac m'ingine,
 οκυρ ριρυ Alban δο διαχθαδ αγυμ-ρα αρρ ανοετ. Οκυρ ρορ
 ατβετ ιν Dubdiao cedna, δια m-bad εοιρε οιρ νο βειε ανη, cumad
 εοιρ α εταβαιτ δο Domnall, δο ρινηρερ μο mac; οκυρ δια m-bad
 εοιρε αργαυδ, α εταβαιτ δο'η τ-ρφαρ, .ι. δ' Aed; οκυρ δια m-bad
 εοιρε δο líc λογμαρ, α εταβαιτ δο Chongal Mend. Οκυρ ιν εαιρε
 ριλ ανδ δυη, αρ ιρε ιρ δεαχ δυβ ριν υιλε, δια ταρδυται δο νεαχ ele
 h-é, ιρ δο Suibne νο ραγαδ, αρ ιρ e ιν ρεν-ρocal ó εειν μαρ, .ι. ιν
 εοιρε δο'η τ-ρεαυδε, αρ ιρ αδυα ρεαυδε τεαε Suibne, αρ ιν δεεαυδ
 δάμ δυιδαχ αρρ. Conad ανη αρβετ ιν ριγ:

βερεαδ μο δραι δεαλγναιγ
 βρεαετ δο μναιβ mac Mogaire
 εα bean ενειρ-γεαλ ceann-buide,
 δυβ δ'α τιβέρ μο εαιρε.
 Δια m-bad εοιρε οριδαιγ,
 co η-δρολαιβ οιρ δ'α ρογνανη,

α

^α *Joints*.—The word τινδε, *tinne*, is explained a *sheep* by Vallancey, *Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis*, vol. iii. p. 514, but its proper meaning, is a joint of the flesh of

any animal.—See Life of St. Bridget, by Brogan, where Colgan loosely translates the word by *lardum*.

And those who find room sitting
 Would not if lying.
 One man with the share of four,
 Four around the bed of each man.
 One hundred goblets, one hundred cups,
 One hundred hogs, and one hundred joints*,
 And one hundred silver vessels,
 Are yonder in the middle of his house.
 The house," &c.

It was then the king said, "Be not displeased, O daughter, for Dubhdiadh, the Druid, told me not to give my cauldron to any one to-night, but to keep it myself and to entertain my daughter's son, the king of Ulster, and the men of Alba out of it to-night. And, moreover, the same Dubhdiadh told me, if it were a cauldron of gold, to give it to Domhnall, the eldest of my sons; if a cauldron of silver, to give it to Aedh, the youngest; and if it were a cauldron of precious stones, to give it to Congal Menn. And the cauldron which I have is the best of all these, and if it were to be given to any one, it is to Suibhne it should go, for it has been a proverb from a remote period, Let the cauldron be given to the multitude, for the house of Suibhne is the resort of the multitude, and no company ever returned displeased from it." And then the king said:

The King.—"Let my austere Druid decide
 Between the wives of Mogaire's sons*,
 To what fair-skinned yellow-haired woman
 Of them my cauldron shall be given."

Dubhdiadh.—"If it were a golden cauldron,
 With golden hooks to move it,

O

* *Mogaire's sons.*—It would appear from or a cognomen of king Eochaidh, but no other authority for it has been found.

John J. Kelly

α Εοχαιδ, α ρλογ ουινε,
 coiρ α εταβαιρτ δο Domnall.
 Δια m-bad coiρe αιργδιγι,
 δο νά τις δέ na δεαταχ,
 α εταβαιρτ δ' Αεδ αιργνιγι,
 δο ρόραρ claindi Eachach.
 Δια m-bad coiρe comadbal,
 δο Congal co med leann-mair,
 δ'on ριρ ρochla ρon-adbal,
 δο ní μορ n-dileρ δ'aindler.
 In coiρe co cloetaigi,
 α Εοχαιδ, α ριγ-ρuiρe,
 α εταβαιρτ δο'n τ-ρocaide,
 δο Suibne αρ λάρ α τηγε.
 Ορα lim Albain cen feill,
 δa maδ am ριγ ρορ Eriinn,
 δο beρainδ ρορ mnaiδ mo maδ,
 mo beannaict, ocur bepeac.

bepeac.

Τιαγατ ρλοιγ Alban uile, ocur ριγ Ulad, δο ειγ ριγ Alban in
 αδαιγ ριν, ocur ba maiε doiδ ann ιτιρ biaδ ocur lind; ocur ρο gniad
 δál oenaig αρ na báραc, δια ριρ in ιιcραδιρ la Congal Claen docum
 n-Erienn, δο εταβαιρτ caeta δο Domnall, mac Aeda, δο ριγ Erienn,
 ocur ρο ραιδρετ ρρι Dubdiao ocur ρρι α n-δραιτιδ olcena ραιτ-
 ρine δο denam doiδ duρ in buδ ροραιο α ρέδ ocur α τυρuiρ, ocur
 ρο gabpaτ na δραιτε ag micelmaine doiδ, ocur oca τοιρμερc.
 Conad ann αρβερ Dubdiao na ραινν-ρι:

Maich ριν α ριρu Alban,
 ca caingen uil bar δ-ταρglaín

CID

^p *To know.*—Dup is used in the Annals of MSS., for the modern ο'ρiορ, i. e. *to know*,
 the Four Masters, and in the best ancient of which it is evidently an abbreviation.

O Eochy of the hosts of men !
 It should be given to Domhnall.
 If it were a cauldron of silver
 From which would issue neither steam nor smoke,
 It should be given to the plundering Aedh,
 The youngest of the sons of Eochaidh.
 If it were a cauldron very great,
 It should be given to Congal of the beauteous tunic,
 That renowned man of great prosperity,
 Who makes lawful of unlawful property.
 The cauldron with ornament,
 O Eochaidh, O great king !
 Should be given to the host,
 To Suibhne in the middle of his house."

The King.—"As I am the ruler of Alba without treachery,
 Should I be king over Erin,
 I would pronounce on the wives of my sons
 A blessing, which I will pronounce.

Let my," &c.

All the host of Alba, and the king of Ulster, came that night to to the house of the king, and were well entertained there both with food and drink; and on the morrow they convened an assembly of the people, to know whether they should go with Congal Claen to Erin, to give battle to Domhnall, the son of Aedh, king of Erin; and they told Dubhdiadh and their other Druids to prophesy unto them to know^p whether their journey and expedition would be prosperous, and the Druids predicted evil to them, and forbade them to go. On which occasion Dubhdiadh repeated these verses:

"That is good, ye men of Alba!
 What cause has brought you together?

What

cío do pala ar bar n-aíre,
 an lo a tatar a n-oen-baile?
 O nach h-í bar b-plearc laima
 Eriu co n-imad n-bála,
 mairg teit, tria claeclóo uige,
 do troib ne níg Tempairí.
 Do ría fer fínd-liat feta,
 ír ba h-oirdeic a ecta;
 ní gebtar fíur tía na tair,
 cuirfid ár ar Albancaib.
 A rluag co lin óg ír eac!
 mac Aeda, mic Ainmireac,
 tria fírinne a bréac, ní brie,
 ata Cúirt íca coiméd.
 Ír mairg na reacán in maí,
 a teagar d'á bar ícarad;
 Gaedil 'n-a cuíre fá'n clad
 ríb-rí ag dul, robr ferf anad.
 Ír mairg na reachain in gleand,
 gebtar oirb a d-tír n-Eíreand;
 ní éibne neac uaib a ceand,
 gan a éreic ne níg eíreand.
 Deic céo cenn toíac bar n-áir,
 tóimcell níg Ulad oll-bain,
 d' fepaib Alban rín 'r an ár,
 ocur píce cét comlán.

Cuiréir

^a *Native land.*—Flearc laima is a technical term signifying land reclaimed by one's own hand, and which is one's own peculiar property. It is satisfactorily explained in a vellum MS. in the Library of

Trinity College, Dublin, (Class H. 3. 18. fol. 52), as follows: Flearc .i. fearano, ut eíre, oirba laime na manac ocur na naem fadóirín .i. flearc laime na manac ocur na naem. i.e. "*Fleasc*, i.e. land, *ut est*,

What object occupies your attention,
 As ye are all this day in one place?
 As Erin of many adventures
 Is not your native land^a,
 Alas for those who go, by change of journey,
 To fight with the king of Tara.
 A fair grey man^r of fame will meet them,
 Whose deeds are celebrated;
 He cannot be avoided, east or west,
 He will bring slaughter on the Albanachs.
 O host of many a youth and steed!
 The son of Aedh, son of Ainmire,
 Through the truth of his judgment,—no falsehood,—
 Is protected by Christ.
 Alas for those who shun not the plain,
 To which ye go *only* to be dispersed;
 The Gaels shall be in groups beneath the mound;
 Ye are going, but better it were to stay.
 Alas for those who shun not the vale,
 Ye shall be defeated in the land of Erin^s;
 Not one of you shall carry his head,
 But shall sell it to the king of Erin.
 Ten hundred heads shall be the beginning of your slaughter,
 Around the great fair king of Ulster,
 This number shall be slaughtered of the men of Alba,
 And ten hundred fully.

Wolves

the land, reclaimed by the hand of the monks and the saints themselves, is called the *Fleasc laimhe* of the monks and the saints.”

^r *A fair grey man*.—King Domhnall was an old man when this battle was fought.

^s *Erin*.—In the vellum copy the reading is, *ir t-ir taebreng*, i.e. in the slender-sided country; but a *o-t-ir n-Eipeano*, which is in the paper copy corrected by Peter Connell, is much better.

✓ *corrected "gnau"* Cuiréir ocuṛ buíðne brian,
 & cṛinḃpictiḃ cinn bṛp ḡ-cuprañ.
 co rímtar ḡaineam ḡrind ḡlan,
 nī h-aíremtar cind Ulaḃ.

Áit naḃ bṛiḡ fairtime de
 re h-uéct tṛoḃ do timḃibe
 rceṛtar bar rṛp re flaitheṛ,
 beid bar nīna cen biḃ-maitṛ. M.

Ír and rín acbeṛe riḡ Áltan fṛi Congal, ír e ír coirí duit, ol re,
 dul a m-ḃreacṛaib co h-Eócaib Áingcear, co riḡ ḃreacṛan, ar ír
 ingen do ríl do mīnai ocum-ra, ocuṛ ír í-ríde maṛair do maṛar-í-a,
 ocuṛ fo ḡeḃa cobairí rloig uada, ocuṛ do biupra eolur duit comice
 teach riḡ ḃreacṛan dia éirí ann.

Ḃa buíðech tṛa in tí Congal de rín, ocuṛ teit luéct tṛiḃa
 long co ḃreacṛu, co riachṛ dūn in riḡ. Inníṛt in oic rcela do'n
 riḡ ocuṛ do maitib ḃreacṛan conid h-e riḡ Ulaḃ do riact ann.
 Ḃa failid rípu ḃreacṛan ocuṛ in riḡ ríup, ocuṛ rṛarí failí ríup,
 ocuṛ íarṛaigíṛ rcela de. Ocuṛ inníṛt Congal a rcela co leir, ocuṛ
 a inṛhupra íṛpí Albain ocuṛ Éirinn.

✓ Do ḡníṛp íarupm dail oenaiḡ leo in Congal ocuṛ in Ullaib ol-
 ceana, fṛi denam comairlí imon caingín rín. Ámail po báḃar
 ann in dail co n-racabair oen laeḃ moṛ éucu; caeime do laeḃaib
 in domain; moḃ ocuṛ aipḃiu ólḃar ceḃ fṛp; ḡuirmitṛp oigṛeab a
 riṛc; ḃerḡíṛp nua-parṛaingí a bel; ḡilíṛp fṛarí-a nemand a deḃ;
 aillíṛp ríneḃta n-oen aibḃe a cōpp. Sciaḃ cobṛabaḃ cona timac- ✓
 mac

* The text of this quatrain is corrected from Mac Morissey's paper copy, which was corrected by P. Connell, evidently from an old vellum MS., not now to be found.

^u This is the poet's prophecy after the

event had occurred, rather judiciously introduced. Adamnan, the learned Abbot of Iona, in whose time this battle was fought, states, that St. Columbkille had delivered a similar prophecy to Aidan,

Wolves and flocks of ravens
 Shall devour the heads of your heroes.
 Until the fine clean sand is reckoned
 The heads of the Ultonians shall not be reckoned'.
 But prophecy is of no avail indeed
 When the obstinate are on the brink of destruction !
 Your men shall be separated from sovereignty,"
 Your women shall be without constant goodness."

The king of Alba then said to Congal, "It is right for thee," said he, "to go into Britain to Eochaidh Aingces, king of Britain, for one of his daughters is my wife, and she is the mother of thy mother, and thou shalt receive aid in forces from him, and I shall guide thee to the house of the king of Britain, if thou wilt go."

Congal was thankful to him, and set out accompanied by thirty ships for Britain, until he reached the king's palace. His youths announced to the king and the chiefs of Britain that the king of Ulster had arrived, and the men of Britain and the king were rejoiced at it, bade him welcome, and asked him his news. And he told him his news fully, and his adventures between Alba and Erin.

An assembly was afterwards convened by them around Congal and the rest of the Ultonians, to hold a consultation on this project. When they were assembled at the meeting, they saw one great hero approaching them; fairest of the heroes of the world; larger and taller than any man; bluer than ice his eye; redder than the fresh rowan berries his lips; whiter than showers of pearls his teeth; fairer than the snow of one night his skin; a protecting shield with a golden border

king of Scotland, the grandfather of Domhnall Brec, which was actually fulfilled in Adamnan's own time: "Hoc autem vaticinium temporibus nostris completum est in *Bello Rath*, Domnallo Breconepote Aidani,

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sine causa vastante provinciam Domnill nepotis Ainmirech: et à die illa usque hodie adhuc in proclivo sunt ab extraneis, quod suspiria doloris pectori incutit.—*Vita Columbae*, Lib. III. c. 5. Trias Thau. p. 365.

K

✓ mac oir fair; dá érairig cata 'n a laim; cloidem co n-altaib deo, ocur co n-imbenum oir for a taeb; ocur cen tpealam laic lair oldarín; folc op-buidi for a cín, ocur gnuir caem corcupda lair.

Dá ceacáing cūcu ír in dail, ocur arbert in rig cen a riadugad, co ferad in anfad rectair na dala, no in rícfad airn a m-badar na rig ocur na cat-milib olcena.

Iar poctain do rom a n-imel na dala, ní po airir go rianig co h-airn i pacaid ecorc in rig, ocur po ruid for a laim deir, eoir e ocur rig Ulad. Cú im ar ruidir ramlaid? ól cách. Ní h-erbad fírim anad a n-inad eli, ol ríurum. Ocur o'f me fein do rigne inad dam, dia m-beit ann inad buid ferr oldareo ír ann no airirfíno. Tíbir in rig ime, ocur arbert, bo cóir do a n-deirnaí. Iarraigic na fíir rcelá do, ocur innirib doib rcelá in beáa fpec-nairc; indapleo ní bui pa nim rcelá nad m-bui aicí; po ghradairget co mor h-e íur fíru ocur mna, for febur a ecorc ocur a iplabpa. Airn mora lair; ní bui ír in oenac oen laech no pedfad a n-imluad a lathair cata, ar a med ocur ar a n-aible. Iarraigic dó can a cénel, ocur cia a rlonnub. Arbert sum nácha rloinnead do neac ele, ocur ní innirfed doib-ríum can a cénel nách a rlonnub.

Tiagaric na rloig ír in dun iar rín, ocur fagabair eirum a oenar a muig reachnon na tealcha for a m-bui in t-oenach. A m-bui nann conur paca oen duine cuice ír in tulair, aicnib for a erpead co m-ba rílib in tí éainic ann, ocur ferad failcí ríur, amail buid aicnib do h-e; ocur ríurib in rílib aicí for taeb na telca,

* *Knobs of ivory.*—Co n-altaib deo, i. e. literally, with knobs of teeth. The northern nations were accustomed to ornament their swords with the teeth of the sea-horse.

* *Besides these.*—Oldarín should be properly written oldar rín, i. e. *than that*.

Oldar is an ancient conjunction, now entirely obsolete, the modern *ina* being substituted in its place; but it is explained in Cormac's Glossary by the Latin *quam*, and in the printed Dictionaries, by the English *above, more than*.

border *was* upon him; two battle lances in his hand; a sword with knobs of ivory*, and ornamented with gold, at his side; he had no other accoutrements of a hero besides these"; he had golden hair on his head, and had a fair, ruddy countenance.

He advanced to them to the assembly, and the king ordered that he should not be saluted, until it should be known whether he would remain outside the meeting, or advance to where the king and all the warriors were seated.

When he had arrived at the border of the assembly, he stopped not till he came to the place where he saw the countenance of the king, and he sat at his right hand, between him and the king of Ulster. "Why hast thou sat thus?" said all. "I was not ordered to remain any where else," said he, "and because it was I myself that selected the place, if there had been a better place than this, it is there I would stay." The king smiled at this, and said, "He is right in all he has done." The men then asked him the news, and he told them all the news in the present world, for there was not, they thought, a story under heaven which he had not; and they loved him very much, both men and women, for the goodness of his countenance and his eloquence. He had very large weapons, so large and massive that there was not a hero at the assembly^x who could wield them in the field of battle. And they asked of what race he was, and what his surname was. He replied, that he was not accustomed to tell his name to any one, and that he would not tell them his tribe or surname.

The hosts then repaired into the palace, and left him alone outside, on the hill on which the meeting was held. When he had been here for some time, he perceived a man coming towards him to the hill, and he knew him by his dress to be a poet, and he bade him welcome

^x *Assembly*.—Oenac, now always written *Oenac*, of the people; but now it is applied to a cattle fair only.

telca, ocur iappaigir pcela do. Innirid rium do na h-uile pcel ba lano lair, act nama ni po ploind a cenel do. Cia tupa anora, ol in t-oglae anaichid, ocur can do cenel, ap atgeonra irat filid. Eiceir ocur filid in nuz adum comnaicir, ol re, ocur do raigib dune in nuz do deacabur anora. Fearaid iapum pleochud mor ocur palec anbaile doib, ocur ba pneacta cech re pect po perad ann. Cuirid rium din a rciat iuir in eiceir ocur in pleochud, ocur lecid a armu ocur a eiduid cata feirid ppir in pneachta. Cib rin? ol in filid. Atber ppir, ol re, dia m-bead airmuicid bud mo oldar po agum po gebtha-ra i ap th' egrir, ocur o na fil, ir am cuibuir ppir pleochud inar in ti uca m-biad ecir. Ba buidec in filid de rin, ocur arperit ppir, diamad miad lat-ra tiactain lim-ra a noct do'm tig, po gebaim biad ocur fer aibci duir. Maic lim, ol re. Tiagart do tig in ecir ocur po gebit a n-daicid bsd ocur leanna and.

Ir and rin tainic tectaire in nuz ap cenn in ecir. Arperit sum na pagad act min bud toil d'on oglae anaichid bui malli ppir dul ann, arperit sein, ba coir dul ann, ap i re ruid in tpear inad ir moó i pagbair filid achuingid .i. in oenach, ocur for banair, ocur for fleid; ocur ni ticra dim-ra ploig bpetan in oen maigin, ocur a n-dul uair-ruid cen ni d' pagbair uairid ap mo ron-ra. Tiagart do'n dún, ocur fustigter iat ann, .i. in filid i riadnair in nuz, ocur eirum i maigin eli. Do bepar biad doib, ocur tocaicid a m-biad

co

¹ *I perceive.*—Ap atgeonra irat filid would not be now understood in any part of Ireland; the modern form of the sentence is, oir aicnigim-re gur filid éu.

² *Would not go.*—Ragad, or more correctly Ragad, is the ancient Subjunctive mood of téigim, or téidim, I go; and though this form is not given in any of the

printed Irish Grammars, it is still commonly in use in the south of Ireland. Ragad is the form given in the printed Grammars.

³ *Unless it were.*—Min buo would be written mun baó in the modern Irish; it means *nisi esset*.

⁴ *Anaichid*,—i. e. *unknown*, is written

welcome as if he were known to him. The poet sat down with him on the side of the hill, and asked him the news. The other told all the news he was desirous to hear, excepting only that he did not tell him the name of his tribe. "Who art thou thyself, now," said the unknown youth, "and what is thy race, for I perceive' that thou art a poet." "The Eges [i. e. *sage*] and poet of the king do I happen to be," said he, "and to the king's palace am I now repairing." A heavy shower then fell, consisting of intermingled rain and snow, and he put his shield between the poet and the shower, and left his own arms and battle dress exposed to the snow. "What is this for?" said the poet. "I say unto thee," replied he, "that if I could show thee a greater token of veneration than this, thou shouldst receive it for thy learning, but as I cannot, I can only say, that I am more fit to bear rain than one who has learning." The poet was thankful for this, and said to him, "If thou wouldst think proper to come with me this night to my house, I shall procure food and a night's entertainment for thee." "I think well of it," replied the other. They repaired to the poet's house, and got a sufficiency of meat and drink there.

Then it was that the king's messenger came for the poet, but the poet said that he would not go^a unless it were^a the wish of the unknown^b youth that he should go; and the latter replied, that it was meet to go to the assembly, "for," said he, "there are three places at which a poet obtains the greatest request, namely, at a meeting, at a wedding, and at a banquet; and I shall not be the cause that the host of Britain should be assembled together in one place, and go away from thee without thy getting anything from them." They repaired to the palace, and they were seated there, the poet in the presence of the king, and the other elsewhere. Food was distributed to them, and they

according to the modern mode of ortho- a negative particle, which is equivalent
graphy αναρτινῶ; it is compounded of αν, to the English *un*, and αἰτινῶ, known.

co m-ba paitéach iat. Áirperc in filio ppiúim nua n-bul ír in dún, dia tucta cnáim rmeapa for méir ina riabnairi, cen a bladao co bráth, ar atá a teglac in níg oglach diana dligeaó ceó cnáim im a téit rui, ocur dia m-bruictear dapa ainbeoin-ríum h-e, ír eicen a cómteom de berig or do tabairte do-rum inb, no comrac for galaib oen-fir, ocur fer comlainb ced eiríum. Maith rín, ol re, co d-tairb róm do gen-ra mo bail recha. Ní po an rúm dín co tarbdaó cnáim for méir do, ocur do berí láim for ceó cínb de, ocur bhuirb ior a dí méir hé, ocur toimlín a ruiur ocur a feoil ar a aile. At ciad cach rín, ocur ba h-ingnao leo. Innuictear d'on laech ucub, diar ba dligeó an ruiur, a ní rín. Áirpaz rein iuar co feirig moir, ocur co m-bruic miled ba digail forr in tí po mill a gerr, ocur po éomail a dligeaó. Oe conairc ríum rín d'áirpazla epcup do'n énaim dó, co m-bui eirí n-a ceann riar ar d-tereaó a incinne im eban a cloiginn. Áirpazret muinnicir in níg ocur a teglac dia airlec-rum 'n a digail rín. Teit ríum fúitib amail teit rég pa minbte, ocur do gú airlech forairb, co m-ba lia a mairb oldair a m-bi. Ocur po éicret in d'rong po pa beo dib. Tic ríum do ruidir, ocur ruidig for gualainb in fíled cedna, ocur po gab omun moir in níg ocur in nigan rime, oe connadair a gal cupaó, ocur a luinde laic, ocur a bhuic miled ar n-erig. Áirperc-rum ríu nar ba h-eail, doib h-e aó mine éiced in teglac ír in teach do ruidir. Ro rair in níg na ticfadir. Ro bean rúm a cáebair n-óir dia éinb annrín, ocur ba caem a gnuir ocur a delb, iar n-érig a ruidig ríu feirig in cátaigche.

At

* *Was brought.*—Tapoao is an ancient form of the modern tugaó, i. e. *was given*, the past tense Indic. mood of tugaím or caópaím. It often occurs in ancient MSS., but is not understood at present in any

part of Ireland.

^d *He flung.*—Epcup is now always written upcup; it signifies a cast, throw, or shot.

* *He came again.*—Do ríuir is gene-

they took of the food till they were satisfied. Before entering the palace the poet had told him [the unknown youth] if a bone should be brought on a dish in his presence, not to attempt breaking it, for there was a youth in the king's household to whom every marrow-bone was due, and that if one should be broken against his will, its weight in red gold should be given him, or battle in single combat, and that he was the fighter of a hundred. "That is good," said the other, "when this will be given I shall do my duty." He stopped not till a bone was brought^c on a dish to him, and he put a hand on each end of it, and broke it between his two fingers, and afterwards ate its marrow and flesh. All beheld this and wondered at it. The hero to whom the marrow was due was told of this occurrence, and he rose up in great anger, and his heroic fury was stirred up to be revenged of the person who had violated his privilege, and ate what to him was due. When the other had perceived this he flung^d the bone at him, and it passed through his forehead and pierced his brain, even to the centre of his head. The king's people and his household rose up to slay him in revenge for it; but he attacked them, as attacks the hawk a flock of small birds, and made a great slaughter of them, so that their dead were more numerous than their living, and the living among them fled. He came again^e, and sat at the same poet's shoulder, and the king and queen were seized with awe of him, when they had seen his warlike feats, and his heroic rage and champion fury roused. But he told them that they had no cause to fear him unless the household should again return into the house. The king said that they should not return. He then took his golden helmet off his head, and fair were his visage and countenance, after his blood had been excited by the fury of the battle.

The

rally written and pronounced *apír* in the modern Irish, but in some parts of Munster it is pronounced *a píre*. It is probable that the ancients pronounced it so *píre*.

At c1 ben n1g 6petan glac ocup lam in ogláig, ocup bui 'g a
 peitem co pava, ar ba macnugad mor le in painne órda at con-
 nairc pá meór in mileo, ar ni éainic for calmain painne a mac-
 pamla, na cloc ba ferr olbair in cloc do pala ann. Ocup no
 iappaet in nigan pcela in painne do'n laech anaicno. Atbert
 rum ferr in nigan, i' agum atair ferrin do pala in painne .i. ag mac
 Obéid ag n1g * * * * . Conad ann arbert n1.

Canar tángair a laich loir,
 ce tuc duit in painne oir,
 no ca tír ar a tarra?
 mo chin cach fa comarba.

'Dom atair fein do bi n1n,
 ag mac Obéid ingantair;
 i' amlaid ferrh painde in n1n,
 ag laeé a comlann oenfir.

A deirim-n1 n1ut-ra de,
 i' deirb lem 'r i' airite,
 pceith mo craide co bráth m-bán,
 agud dechraim a macan. Can.

Ocup no págaib in painne agum-ra in tan at bat ferrin. Oc
 cuala umorpo in nigan n1n, no buail a bara, ocup no éuairc a h-uét,
 ocup no ferrb a h-agaib, ocup do pad a callad n1gnairde forr in
 teinid i' p1adnairi éaich, ocup do pad a páid guil erci ian n1n. Cio
 n1n a nigan? ol cách. N1n. ol n1, mac no n-ucup do'n n1g, ocup do
 decaib uaim atá p1eic m-bliadain ann anora, do foglaim gairced
 reaónón in domain, ocup i' aici no bui in painne n1l im laim in
 ócláig ucub. Dáig do biupra aicne fair, ar i' ocum fein no buí i
 torac, co puc in mac lair h-é in tan no iméig uaim.

Ocup

^f *Obeid*.—This is evidently a fictitious character, and introduced as such by the writer.

^g *Callad*,—callao.—This word is now obsolete in the modern Irish language, but it is preserved in the Erse, and is explain-

The wife of the king of Britain saw the palm and hand of the youth, and viewed them for a long time, and she much admired the golden ring which she saw on his hand, for there came not on earth such a ring, or a stone better than the stone it contained. And the queen asked the unknown hero the history of the ring. The hero answered the queen: "This ring belonged to my own father, the son of Obeid¹, king * * * ." And she said:

Queen.—"Whence hast thou come, O great hero!
 Who has given thee the golden ring?
 Or what is the country from which thou hast come?
 My love is upon every one who bears thy mark."

Hero.—"My own father had this *ring*,
 The son of the wonderful Obeid;
 And *the source* whence the champion's ring was obtained
 Was from a hero in single combat,"

Queen.—"I say unto thee of it,
 It is certain, it is positive,
 My heart is wearied for ever,
 From viewing thee, O youth."

"And he left me the ring after his death," *said the hero.* When the queen heard this she wrung her hands, and struck her breast, and tore her face, and cast her royal "callad²" into the fire in the presence of all, and she then screamed aloud. "What means this, O queen?" said all. "It is plain," said she, "a son whom I brought forth³ for the king, and who went away from me twenty years ago, to learn feats of arms throughout the world, had the ring which is on the hand [finger] of yonder youth, for I recognize it, as it was I myself that had it first, until the son took it with him, when he went away from me."

And

ed by Shaw as signifying a *cap*, a *wig*, &c.
 It is not unlike the Irish *caille*, a cowl,
 (*cucullus*), or the English *cowl*.

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¹ *Brought forth.*—Mac po n-ucur do'n
 pig would be written in the modern Irish
 mac do pugar do'n pig.

L

Ocur po gab for lam-comairt moir ap a aitle rin, cuma deirb leo co u-eibela, mine pagbad fupraet po ceboir. Teit rium iarum i comfocur do'n rigain, ocur atberc pua, dia n-deirnta rin forim-ra, a rigain, ol re, po inderaino rcela do mic duir. Ro gell ri co n-a luga, co n-dingnead. Mui do mac, ol re, a rigain, ocur ir me deacaid uait do foglain gairced timcell in beata. Ni po creid ri rin, gu ra dech a plinnen dear. Cid rin, a rigain, ol re. Nin, ol ri, in tan po imetig mo mac uaim, do padur grianne or po barr a plindein deir, do ren uaire ocur do comarta fair. Mara tur mo mac, po gebra rin indat. Fecaid iarum, ocur fuair an comarda amail po raib, ocur po buail a bara do ruidir, tri a mac eolchaire do teet ocur arperc, ir truaig in gnim po b'ail duib do denam a rig .i. ap n-oen mac a n-or do marbad cen cinaid dot muinntir, ocur po airneid amail for fuair an comarda pempaidce fair. Ni po creid in rig cup bad h-e a mac no beith and. Cid na creide a n-abair in rigain, a rig bpetan? ol Congal. Atberc pua a adbor, ol in rig. Badura pechur ocur dail mor imum ir in dun ra iar n-imetec mo mic uaim, conur paca buidin moir eugam: ced laec a lin; oen oglach pempu ocur folc puad fair; ir e ba coirec doib. Iarraigcei rcela dib, arperc in c-oglae puad ucub gur ba mac dam-ra h-e, ocur gur ba eugam eaimic. Iarpac cagh dim-ra in ba fir rin, ocur ni tarbur nach ppegra forpo, act po faemur a beir 'na mac dam, ap na tirta firim flaitur o anraib bpetan. Ocur iarraigim a ainn de.

Atberc

¹ *I will tell thee.*—Ro inderaino would be written in the modern Irish do inneóruinn. It is the subjunctive form of the verb innirim, I tell, or relate.

² *As an amulet.*—Sean uaire, which literally means, the *luck of an hour*, is explained by P. Connell, in his MS. Dictionary, "transitory or temporal bless-

ing, prosperity, success, or happiness ;" but it appears from the application of the term in the text, and from other examples of its use, to be found in the best Irish MSS., that it also means an amulet, or anything which was believed to insure luck or success, or bring about a lucky hour.

³ *If thou be.*—Mara is used in the best

And she proceeded after this to wring her hands so violently, that they thought she would die, unless she should get immediate relief. He [the unknown youth] afterwards went over near the queen, and said to her, "If thou wilt keep my secret, O queen, I will tell thee¹ news of thy son." She promised on her oath that she would keep the secret. "I am thy son," said he, "O queen! and it is I that went away from thee to learn feats of arms around the world." She believed him not, until she looked at his right shoulder. "What is that for, O queen?" said he. "It is not difficult," said she. "When my son went away from me, I put a grain of gold under the top of his right shoulder as an amulet¹ and a mark upon him. If thou be^h my son, I will find this in thee." She then looked, and found the mark as she had said; and she wrung her hands again, for the return of her lamented son, and she said, "Pitiful is the deed thou hast desired to do, O king, namely, to have the only son of us both killed without any crime by thy people," and she told how she had found the mark above mentioned upon him. The king did not believe that it was his son who was present. "Why dost thou not believe all that the queen says, O king of Britain?" said Congal. "I will tell thee the reason," replied the king. "After the departure of my son from me, I was on one occasion in this palace with a large assembly about me, and I saw a large troop approaching me: one hundred heroes was their number, and one youth was before them with red hair; he was their chieftain. They were asked the news, and the red-haired youth said that he was a son of mine, and that it was to me he came. All asked me if this were true, but I made them no answer, but agreed that he was my son, in order that the warriors of Britain might not oppose my reign. And I asked him his name. He replied that his name was Conan (for that was the name

and most ancient Irish MSS., for the mo- *if*, and the assertive verb *ir*, and signifies *deru mór*, which is compounded of *má*, literally, *si esset* or *si esset*.

Ատբերտ քսմ շքր Բա Կոնան ա անմ; սալք Բա Կոնան անմ Ին ԵԾ
 մի Ե Բու օԿւմ-լա, օԿւք յօ քալծուլա քրք, Եսալք Ծքետան Ծօ էաԲալք,
 օԿւք ԵէԵ ա ԵԻԾ Բալծնա Ծօմ' քալծւ. Լաք նաԲաքաԾ ԾւԻն ԾԻն Իլ
 Ին Ծալ ԵԾնա, աԵ ԵԻա մալծԻն մօլք ԵԼ Եղալն; ԵԾ Լաէ ա ԼԻ
 քԵԻն, օղլաէ քԵմք, օԿւք քօԼ քԻԾ քալք. Լաքքալծ Ին քր քԵԼա
 ԾԵ, աԵբերտ քսմ Ին ԵԾնա, շքր Բա մաԵ Ծաւ-քա Խ-Ե, օԿւք Բա Կոնան ա
 անմ. ֕Կւք ալքքքքա քրք, Եսալք Ծքետան Ծօ Եր, մաք Ին ԵԾնա.
 Լք Ին Եքք Լաա սմօքքօ աԵ ԵԻա մալծԻն ն-Ծմօլք ալԵ Եղալն, մօս
 օԼԾաք ԵաԵ ԲալծԵն օլԵ; Եր ԵԾ Լաէ ա ԼԻ. ֕ղլաէ ԵրաԵաԾ քԵմք,
 ալԼԻ Ծօ ԼաէԵալԵ Ին Ծօմալն; քօԼ ԾօնԾ քալք. ԵԻ Եղալն Լաք քԻն,
 օԿւք աքքքք ԵւաԾ մաԵ Ծաւ-քա, օԿւք ԵւաԾ Կոնան ա Եօմալն.
 Աքքքքքա Ին ԵԾնա քրք; օԿւք Իլ ալք քԻն, ա Կօղալ, օԼ Ին քղ, նաԵ
 ԵքլօԾմ-քԻ ԵւաԾ Խ-Ե Ին Լաէ սԵԾ մօ մաԵ, աք Ին Երալք քԻն Ծօ քաԾ
 ճօ Իմ աղալծ. Լք ԵաԾ Իլ Եօլք ալն, օԼ Կօղալ, Ծա ԵլքաԵ Ին Երալք
 քԻն Ծօ'ն Ծւն, ԵօմաԵ ԾօլԵ օԿւք Ծօ'ն Լաէ սԵԾ աք ճալալԵ օԵն-քր,
 օԿւք Ելք ԾԻԵ Ել ալք, ա ԲԵԵ 'ն-ա մաԵ աղաԵ-քա. Լք ԵաԾ ԼԻմ, օԼ
 Ին քղ.

Անալք ալն Ին աԾալք քԻն, օԿւք Երճր Կոնան ՂօԾ Եօ մօԾ
 Լաք նա ԲաքաԾ, աք Իլ Ե Բա մաԵ Ծլք Ծօ'ն քղ, օԿւք ԵԵԵ Ծօ
 ԾԵճքԻն Ին ԵքքօԵա, Բօլ Ի ԵօմքօԿւք Ծօ'ն Ծւն, օԿւք Բու աղ քալքքԻն
 քօք նԵԼԼալԵ աԵօլք, օԿւք աքքքք աԵ ԵԻմ նԵլ քօԼա օք ԵԻԾ Կօնալն
 Ղաալծ, օԿւք նԵլ քօԼա օք ԵԻԾ Կօնալն քԻն, օԿւք նք քԻլ օք ԵԻԾ
 Կօնալն Ծւն; օԿւք ա ԾԵ նլմԵ, օԼ քԵ, ԵքԵ ԲԵլքալք Կոնան Ծօն
 ալք Են ԵւաԵմ ԼԻմ-քա? աք Իլ ԼԻմ ԵւաԵԵ Ին ԾԻ Կօնան ալԵ. ԿօնաԾ
 ալն աքքքք:

ԱԵ Եւ Երալք մլԵն 'լա մաղ,
 Եօ ն-ԵլքքԵ ն-ալալն ն-լնղաԾ,

քԻլ

¹ *The men.*—Ին քր, now always written na քր. It is curious that in very ancient and correct MSS., Ին, which is the

singular form of the article, is found joined to nouns in the plural number.

^m *Greater than.*—Մօօ օԼօաք, would be

name of the first son I had), and I then told him to make a circuit of Britain, and to come to me at the end of a year. On the next day, as we were at the same assembly, we saw another large troop approaching us; their number was one hundred, and there was a youth before them having fair hair. The men' asked the news of him, and he replied that he was my son, and that his name was Conan. And I told him in like manner to make the circuit of Britain. On the third day we saw a very large troop, greater than either of the preceding^m; three hundred heroes their number. There was a fair-formed youth before them, the fairest of the heroes of the world, with brown hair. He came on to us, and said that he was a son of mine, and that his name was Conan. I told him the same; and it is for this reason, O Congal," said the king, "that I do not believe that yon hero is my son, for the other three had told me a falsehood to my face." "The most proper thing to be done," said Congal, "would be, should the other three come to the palace, to get them and this hero to fight in single combat, and whichever of them should come off victorious to adopt him as thy son." "I am willing to do so," said the king.

They remained so for that night, and early in the morning Conan Rod,—who was the king's real son,—rose and went out to view the stream which was near the palace, and he viewed the clouds on the sky, and said, "I see a cloud of blood over Conan the Red, and a cloud of blood over Conan the Fair, but none over Conan the Brown-haired, and O Gods of heaven, said he, what will save Conan the Brown-haired from falling by me? For the other two Conans shall fall by me;" and he said:

"I see three heroes in the plain,
With suits beautiful, wonderful,

There

written, in the modern Irish, mo m^a. In ancient MSS. long vowels, especially those of the broad class, are often doubled, though it is stated by the modern Grammarians that this is contrary to the genius of the Irish language.

ῥῖλ υαῖρτῖθ, ῥῥῖ ἡ-υαῖρ ῥεῖρῖ,
nel na ῥola ῥοῖ-ḃeῖρῖ.

Nel ῥola οῖ ḃῖνḃ Conain Ruaid,
ῖῥ ḃo ḃén a ḃῖmbuaid;
in cedna οῖ ḃῖνḃ Conain ῥῖνḃ
in eῖῖῥῖθ alainḃ ῖῥῥῖνḃ.

Nῖῖ ḡab claidem, nῖῖ ḡab ῥciaḃ,
nῖῖ ḡab eῖῖῥeḃ tῥaeta tῥiaḃ,
nῖῖ ḡab ḡaῖῥceḃ ῖῥ ḡῖῥῖ ḡlann,
laeḃ ná ῥῥeῖḡeῥainḃ comlonn.

Nῖ uil οῖ ḃῖνḃ Conain Duind
nel na ῥola ῥοῖ ῥeḡaim,
ḃeῖῥḡaḃ-ῥa mo laῖnn ῖ n-ḃiu,
ῥοῖ na Conanaῖθ aḃ ciu. Aḃ ciu.

Aḃ ci ῖaῖ ῥῖn buῖḃῖn moῖῖ ḃῖuῖ ῖῥ in ḃῥoḃaḃ, buῖ taῖῖ in ῥῥuḃḃ,
ocuῖ aḃ ci oen laech ῥuad moῖ ῥemῥu, ocuῖ aῖḃῖῥ ἡ-é. Ocuῖ
aῖῥeῖῥ ῥῥῖ, ciá lán buḃ ῥeῖῖ laḃ aḡuḃ ḃo ní no éallad ῥοῖῖ in
ḃῥoḃaḃ ῥa? Aῖῥeῖῥ ῥum, ba ἡ-e a lan οῖῖ ocuῖ aῖḡaῖḃ. ῥῖῖ,
ol ῖe, nῖḃaḃ mac-ῥa ḃo'n ῥῖḡ, aḃḃ mac ceῖῥḃaῖ, no ῥῖῖ ῥo ḡní nach
aῖḃḃ éicῖn ḃῖ óῖ, no ḃῖ aῖḡaḃ, ocuῖ ῥo ḡeḃaῥa báῖ ῖnḃ. ῥeῖaῖḃ
comlann ῖaῖum, ocuῖ maῖḃḃḃaῖ Conan Ruad ann. Aῖῥeῖῥ mac
in ῥῖḡ, .i. Conan Rob, ῥῥῖ nuῖnnḃῖῥ in ῥῖῖ ῥοῖ maῖḃ, ḃῖa n-ῖnnῖeḃ
neac uaid ḃam, nῖ ῥῖῖ in aῖḃḃe no ῥaḃuῖ ῥοῖῖ in laech, ῥo aῖῖc-
ῥῖnḃ ῥῖḃ. ῥῖῖ, ol ῥiaḃ, nῖ taῖῥḃ neac ῥοῖ ḃῖḃ aῖḃḃe báῥa ῥeῖῖ ῖná
in aῖḃḃe ḃo ῥaḃaῖῖ ῥοῖ áῖ tῖḡeῖῥna, aῖ ba mac ceῖῥḃaῖ a tuaiῖceῖῥ
ḃῖeḃaῖ ἡ-e, ocuῖ taῖῖc tῥῖa ḃoῖῥῥaḃ n-aῖcenta, co n-eḃaῖῥ co
m-baḃ mac ḃ'on ῥῖḡ ἡ-e, o ῥo ḃualai a beῖḃ cen mac oca.

Τῖc

ⁿ *Over the bridge.*—ḃῥoḃaḃ is now ge-
nerally written ḃῥoῖḃeav, and the word is
usually applied to a stone bridge. It is un-
questionably a primitive Irish word, and is

given as such in Cormac's Glossary. It was
probably applied by the ancient Irish to a
wooden bridge, as we have no evidence that
they built any bridges with stone arches ;

There is over them, for an angry hour,
 A cloud of deep red blood.
 A cloud of blood over Conan the Red,
 Which to him forebodes defeat;
 The same over Conan the Fair
 Of the beautiful battle dress.
 There has not taken sword, there has not taken shield,
 There has not taken battle dress to defeat a chief,
 There has not followed chivalry and valorous deeds,
 A hero whose challenge I would not accept.
 There is not over Conan the Brown-haired
 A cloud of blood that I can see:
 I shall redden my blades to-day
 Upon the Conans whom I see."

After this he beheld a large troop coming towards him over the bridge^a which was across the stream, and he saw one large red-haired hero before them, whom he recognized. And [*Conan Rod*] said to him, "Of what wouldst thou wish to have this bridge full?" The other replied, "of gold and silver." "It is true," said the other, "that thou art not a son of the king, but the son of some artisan who constructs something of gold or silver; and thou shalt die here." They engaged in single combat, and Conan the Red was slain. And the king's son, Conan Rod, said to the people of the man whom he had slain: "If any of you will tell whether I have judged truly of the hero, I will spare you." "Truly," said they, "no one ever judged another better than thou hast judged our lord; for he was the son of an artisan from North Britain, and hearing that the king had no son, he came, through pride of mind, and said that he was the king's son."

The

but they built wooden bridges at a very early period. See Duaid Mac Firbis's Pedigrees of the ancient Irish families, [MS. in the Library of the R. I. A.] p. 508, where he mentions the erection of Droichead na Feirsi, and Droichead Mona Daimh.

The second man came on to the bridge, and he asked him the same: he said he would rather have the bridge full of cows, horses, and flocks, *than of anything else*. "True," observed the other, "thou art not the son of the king, but the son of a brughaidh [farmer], or of a man of riches and wealth." He then sprang upon him, and cut off his head, and asked his people if he had judged truly. "Truly," they replied.

They soon saw a third troop coming towards them: there was one great hero in the front of this troop, having three hundred along with him. Conan went to meet him at the same bridge, and asked, "of what wouldst thou wish this bridge full?" He answered, "*I would wish it full of heroes and champions of the same valour and prowess with myself*." "True," observed Conan, "thou art the son of a king, but not of the king of Britain." "True," said the other, "I am not a son of the king of Britain, but I am a son of the king of Lochlann^o: and my father having been treacherously killed by his own brother, they banished me immediately after killing my father; and having heard that the king of Britain had no son, I came to him to solicit aid in hosts and forces from him, to take revenge for my father. This is the truth, and I will not contend with thee about a kingdom which is not due to me." Both then made peace and a treaty with each other, and they repaired to the palace where the king of Britain and Congal were, and there told their stories on both sides. All were pleased at this news; but the king said, "I will impose more proof on this son." "What proof?" asked Congal Claen. "It is not difficult," said he: "I have a fort on the borders of Britain called the

way by this name. Duald Mac Firbis, the last of the hereditary antiquaries of Lecan, says, that the ancient Irish writers call the inhabitants of Dania by the name Dub-Lochlannaiġ, i. e. Black Lochlanns, and the

inhabitants of Norwegia, by Fionn-Lochlannaiġ, i. e. white or fair Lochlanns. See *Mac Firbis's Pedigrees* (Marquis of Drogheda's copy), p. 364; also O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, part iii. c. 56, and O'Brien's Irish

ainm; a t'á dín cloch amhá ir in dun rín, ocur ní gluaireann fíu
bréig, ocur ní fébann fep pingaile a togluaraict nách a togbail;
ocur a tat da each oen da'ta ocum-ra ir in dun cedna, ocur ní
ní'tait fa neac fo gni goi co bráth; ocur t'iafra gur in dun rín
dia de'rbad fopit-ra in fip atberu fíom. Do gni'ther famlaid
uile: tógbaio Conán in cloch, ocur ní'taid na h-eócu fói; ut d'ixit
in rí'g:

Cloch a tain-Dún da la'ca,
ir fíu a com'rom d'ór da'ta,
ní gluairenn le b'p'ig cen bráth,
ir ní gluairenn pingalach.

M' eich-rí fep in fep'p'oi a n-ghai,
co brá't ní gluairet le gai,
gluairet le fí'p'inde fínd,
ir luat á'gar'ta a n-é'p'om.

Dia fip in buo tu mo mac,
a c'uing'io calma com'na'it,
pa'cad i n-diu ama't go moch,
gur in dun a fíul mo cloch.

Cloch.

Tinolaio Congal iap rín p'loig Saxan ocur a rí'g, .i. Garbh, mac
Roga'rb, ocur p'loig na f'raing'ce ocur a rí'g, .i. Dairbhre, mac
Dorinnma'ir, ocur p'loig b'petan fa Conan Rod, mac Eachach
Aing'c'ir, ocur fí'p' Alban fa ceit'pe macaib Eachach buide, .i.
Aed

Dictionary in voce **LOCHLANNACH**, where the
name *Lochlann* is explained *land of lakes*.

° *The Fort of the Two Lakes*.—Dún da
lacha. The editor has not been able to
find any name like this, or synonymous
with it, in any part of Wales. Whether
it is a mere fictitious name invented by
the writer, or a real name then existing,

it is not easy now to determine.

° *A noble stone*.—This stone was some-
what similar to the Lia Fail and other ma-
gical stones of the Irish Kings.

° *Garbh, the son of Rogarbh*,—i. e. Rough,
the son of Very Rough; he is evidently a
fictitious personage.

° *Dairbhre, the son of Dornmhár*.—Must

the Fort of the two Lakes°. In this fort is a noble stone°, which does not move at falsehood, and a murderer cannot move or raise it; and I have in the same fort two steeds of one colour, which would never run under one who tells a falsehood. Do thou come to this fort to prove on thee whether what thou tellest me be true." This was accordingly done: Conan raised the stone, and the steeds ran under him. And the king said:

"A stone which is at Dun-da-lacha
Is worth its weight of bright gold,
It moves not at falsehood without betraying it,
And a murderer cannot move it.
My steeds, too, of beautiful appearance,
Never will move at falsehood,
But they move with fair truth,
Their motion is quick and agile.
To prove whether thou art my son,
O brave puissant champion!
I will go forth early this day
To the fort in which my stone is.

A stone," &c.

After this Congal assembled the forces of Saxonland with their king Garbh, the son of Rogarbh°, and the forces of France, with their king Dairbhre, the son of Dornmhar°, and the forces of Britain under Conan Rod°, and the men of Alba under the four sons of Eochaidh

be also considered as a fictitious personage, as there was no king of France of this name, or of any name of which it could be a translation, at this period. Dagobert, son of Clotaire II., was king of France in the year 638, when the Battle of Magh Rath was fought.

° *Conan Rod.*—Conan appears to have been very common among the ancient Britons, as the proper name of a man, but no prince Conan is recorded as having lived exactly at this period, and we must therefore conclude, that this Conan was an ideal personage.

Aed in eppib uaine, ocur Congal menb, ocur Suibne, ocur Domnall bpeac, a rinnrep. Do bept lair uile in lin plóg rin, co tarborat cat do Domnall co fepaib Epenn ime, for Muig Rath, co tarbad ár cenn eturpu, ocur co torchair Congal Claen ann. Ár ice rin tri buada in cacha, .i. maíom nua n-Domnall ma fírinne for Congal ina goi, ocur Suibne do dul fíi gealtacé ar a méo do laíob do lepaig, ocur in fep dī fepaib Alban do dul dia tír fepin cen luing, cen baipc, ocur laec aile i leanmain de.

Ro marb dīn Cellach, mac Maicaba, Conan Rod, .i. mac nīg bpetan for galaib oen-fíi, ocur nō marbta dīn na nīgū ocur na toirig olcéana tri nept comlainb, ocur tria fírinbī flata in nīg, .i. Domnaill, mic Aeda, mic Ainmíech; ocur tria nept in cat-míle ampā, .i. Cellaé, mac Maicaba, .i. mac bpatar Domnaill: ar nī nō marbad laech na cat-míle do clannaib Neill nī in cath nach dígelad Cellach tria nept comlainb ocur imbuaile. Co ná tepna d' Ulltaib arf acé re céo laec namá, nō éladar ar in armuig fa fepdomun, mac Imomain, .i. laec ampā d' Ulltaib in tí fepdomun. Nī tepna dīn d' allmaracaib arf acé Dubdaib dīn, do deacaib fíi foluamain ar in cat, ocur nī nō aipir co h-Albain,

[†] *Three Buadha*.—These three remarkable occurrences, which took place at the Battle of Magh Rath, are also mentioned in an ancient MS. in the Stowe Library, of which Dr. O'Connor gives a full description in the Stowe Catalogue, and which was published by Mr. Petrie, in his *History and Antiquities of Tara Hill*, p. 16, *et sequent*. But Dr. O'Connor has entirely mistaken the meaning of the passage, as I shall prove in the notes to the Battle of Magh Rath.

^u *The going mad of Suibhne*.—A distinct

story was written on the madness of this Suibhne, giving an account of his eccentricities and misfortunes, from the period at which he fled, panic-stricken, from the Battle of Magh Rath, till he was killed by a clown at Tigh Moling, now St. Mullins, in the county of Carlow. A copy of this story, which is entitled *Buile Shuibhne*, i. e. Suibhne's Madness, is preserved, prefixed to the Battle of Magh Rath, in No. 60 of the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, Dublin. It is a very wild and ro-

Eochaidh Buidhe, namely, Aedh of the Green Dress, Congal Menn, Suibhne, and their senior [i. e. *eldest brother*] Domhnall Brec. And he brought all these forces with him, and gave battle to Domhnall and the men of Erin around him, on Magh Rath, where there was a slaughter of heads between them, and where Congal Claen was slain. These were the three "Buadhla" [i. e. *remarkable events*], which took place at the battle, viz., 1. The victory gained by Domhnall in his truth over Congal in his falsehood. 2. The going mad of Suibhne, in consequence of the number of poems written upon him"; and, 3. The return home of a man of the men of Alba to his own country, without a boat or barque, with another hero clinging to him.

Cellach, the son of Maelcobha, slew Conan Rod, the son of the king of Britain, in single combat, and all the other kings and chieftains [*who had assisted Congal*] were slain by dint of fighting, and through the truth of the prince, Domhnall, the son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, and through the puissance of the illustrious warrior, Cellach^v, the son of Maelcobha, that is, the son of *king* Domhnall's brother: for there was not a hero or champion of the race of Niall slain in the battle, whose death was not revenged by Cellach by dint of battle and fighting. So that there escaped not of the Ultonians from the battle but six hundred heroes only, who fled from the field of slaughter under the conduct of Ferdoman^w, the son of Imoman, a renowned hero of the Ultonians. There escaped not *one* of the foreigners save Dubhdiadh, the Druid, who fled panic-stricken from the battle, and

mantic story, but is valuable, as preserving the ancient names of many remarkable places in Ireland, and as throwing curious light upon ancient superstitions and customs.

^v *Cellach*. — This Cellach afterwards reigned conjointly with his brother Conall

for twelve years, as monarchs of Ireland, that is, from the year 642 to 654.

^w *Ferdoman, son of Imoman*, is not mentioned in the Irish Annals, nor is his name to be found in the genealogies of the Clanna Rudhraighe, though he seems to be a real historical character.

h-Albain, cen luing, cen baipc, ocur laech mapb i lenmain dia leath-óir; daig po cúir Congal glar i cengal itir cec n-oir dia muinntir, ag cur in cata, co ná teichead neach dib o céli, amail do clanda Conaill ocur Eogain, tria porcongair Conaill, mic baedain, mic Nindeda, in rig-miled amra. Conid amlaid rin po cúirret in cath.

Conad Flead Dúin na n-géid, ocur tucair cata Muige Rath conice rin iar fir.

* *So far the true account.* — This is the usual manner of terminating ancient Irish stories. The reason evidently is to prevent mistake, as the old MSS. are so closely written that it would not be easy to distinguish their several tracts without

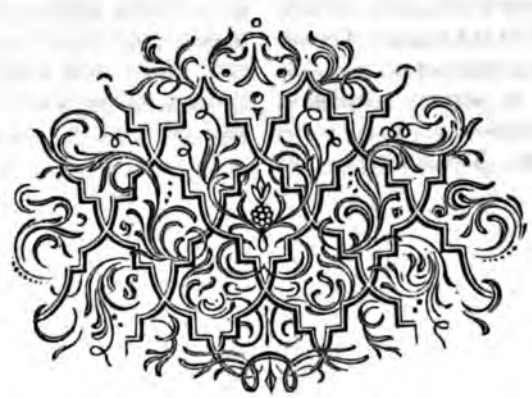
such remarks, to show where one ended and another commenced.—See the conclusion of the tale of Deirdre, in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Dublin, vol. i. p. 134, where Mr. Theophilus O'Flanagan has written the following note on this subject:

and who made no delay till he reached Alba with a dead hero tied to one of his feet; for Congal had tied every two of his people together in the battle with a fetter, that the one might not flee from the other; and the races of Conall and Eoghan did the same by order of Conall, the son of Baodan, son of Ninnidh, the renowned royal champion. And thus they fought the battle.

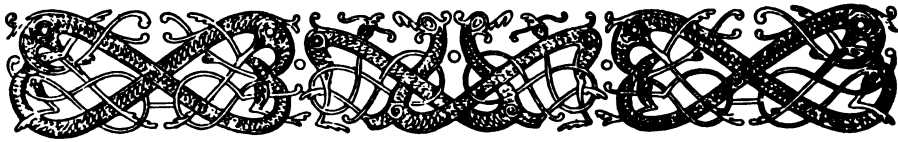
So far the true account^x of the Banquet of Dun na n-gedh, and the cause of the Battle of Magh Rath.

"Such is the sorrowful tale of the children of Usnach."—"This is a manner of terminating our stories in old manuscripts. The obvious cause is to prevent mistake, as well as to call attention back to the poetic or historical detail. The old manuscripts are so closely written, that it is not easy to distinguish their several tracts without such marks; and next, it is suggested, that one reading is not sufficient to appreciate the value of a composition."

And thus it is, that the most beautiful and most perfect of all
the things that God has created, is the human soul, which is
the image of God, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is
the most precious of all things, and the most valuable of all
treasures. It is the most delicate of all things, and the most
fragile of all vessels. It is the most noble of all things, and
the most exalted of all beings. It is the most pure of all
things, and the most holy of all places. It is the most
lovely of all things, and the most beautiful of all sights.



CATH MUIGHÉ RATH.



CATH MUIGHÉ RATH.



AID ne filio fuprunnuib; lítep ne cach comar-
 bur; teibead ne tur tiorcedail; fuaraic ne fear
 fupogna. Conaó iat rín na ceitpe comfocail
 cuibó, cúmaib, chialltaic teacha, no oibai geabap
 ugbair i n-ur-tur gacha h-eladna, ocuf i tinniceadal cacha
 tpeapa. Ait éna ip e pat foillrigéi na focal feiceamanta
 pileaó

The initial letter *L* is taken from the vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, from which the text of this tale has been transcribed. The Society are indebted to Dr. Aquilla Smith for the drawing from which the wood-cut was engraved.

A poem. — This introduction to the battle of Magh Rath is very obscure, and seems rather irrelevant, like the proems to many other ancient productions. The ancient Irish writers were accustomed to

quote the proverbs and dark sayings of their poets as arguments of wisdom, but many of these sayings are so obscure to us of the present day, that we cannot see the wisdom which they are said to have so happily communicated to our ancestors.

Animating bard. — The word fuprunnuib is explained in O'Clery's Glossary, by the modern words lapaó no foillriuğaó, i. e. to light or explain, and in a vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, (H. 2. 16.) p. 552, by foillriuğaó only.



THE BATTLE OF MAGH RATH.



Poem^a for the animating^b bard. A letter for every succession. Consideration before commencing. Development^c for a proclaimer:—These are the four fit, meet, and expressive maxims which authors have ordered *to be placed* at the beginning of every composition, and in the proem of every battle-narrative.

And the reason that these scientific words of the poets are exhibited to

It is used by Duald Mac Firis in the sense of lighting, igniting, kindling, as *Ar* *ir é no bíod ag fuppannao canole ar béalaib* *Aedá, mic Aric Uí Ruairc,* an can no bíod ag fíciollaic, “for it was he was used to *light* the candle before Aedh, the son of Art O’Rourke, when he was playing at chess.”—Lib. Geneal. p. 218.

^c *Development.*—*Fuairte* *pe* *peap* *fu-* *poir*: The word *fuairte*, which in Mac Morissy’s copy of this tale (made in 1722),

is modernized *fuairte* and *fuairte*, is not given in any Irish Dictionary except Peter Connell’s, in which it is explained “the divulging of a secret;” and *fuairte* *ead*, an adjective formed from it, is explained “exposing, divulging.” However, from the many examples of its use which occur throughout this tale, and in other ancient tracts, it is clear that it means more properly, “developing, unfolding, elucidating, or setting forth.”

píleatō rín, d'airneir ocup d'íadnugatō aignitō ocup illruine na n-og-briathar n-aínnar, n-imcubaitō, n-ugdarda rín.

Laitō ne pílib fuprunnuib, nō paitrimar romainb, inann rōn ocup laitō, nō porcuō, nō pichlearg, ír dír ocup ír oligeatō d'éicrib ocup d'píleabaitō d'airneir in airtib oipeactair, ocup í locaib línmar, ocup í combalaib coitcéanna, d'uarait ocup d'íadnugatō a pōpait ocup a pílibeachta arí na píleabaitō.

Líteir ne cach comarbup, do paitreamar romainb, inand rōn ocup in céolítear d'a g-comlanaitéar comarbup le turebail gacha tinnceadail, ocup ur-éur cacha h-aibírech; ba h-eatō a h-aínn-píbe A togaibe, tre-uillech, trér a tuicéar in Trínob Tre-Deapranach; ocup ír uime nō h-oirbneō í n-ur-éur gacha h-aibírech, ár in ced buil nō cputhaigearcar Dia d'á builib, ír o A nō h-aínnmigeatō .i. aingel a aínn; ocup in ced buine nō cputhaigeadō dno ír o A nō h-aínnmigeatō, .i. Adám a aínn rēin; ocup dno ba ur-éur uplabra Adaimh, mar fōirglear in t-ugdar.

Adraim, adraim éu-ra a De,
ced gút Adaim, glan a gné;
ag aicrín Eba aille,
ann do rinne a céo gairé.

Tebeatō

^d *Rhapsody*.—Rílearg: this word is not given in any published Dictionary, but it is explained by Peter Connell, "a kind of extemporaneous verse." It appears from various specimens of it given in Irish romantic tales, that it was a short rhapsody in some kind of metre, generally put into the mouths of poets and Druids while under the influence of the Teinm Loeghdha or poetical inspiration.

^e *Assemblage*.—In airtib oipeactair,

modernized in Mac Morissy's copy to í n-apraitō oipeactair, i. e. on heights or hills of assembly. The word oipeactair is still used in the North of Ireland to denote an assembly or crowd of people. This alludes to the meetings which the Irish held on hills in the open air, to which reference is frequently made in the old English Statutes.—See an extract from the Privy Council Book (of 25 Eliz.), quoted in Mr. Hardiman's Irish Minstrelsy, vol.

to view is, that the nature and various mysterious meanings of such clear, pointed, and classical words might be stated and elucidated.

"A poem for the animating bard," which we said above, means a poem, or ode, or rhapsody^d, which is meet and lawful for bards and poets to recite on hills of assemblage^e, and places of meeting, and at general convocations, to exhibit and display^f their knowledge and poetry.

"A letter for every succession," which we said above, means the first letter, by which succession is completed for raising every project, and the beginning of every alphabet; its name is the excellent, triangular A^g, by which is understood [i. e. *symbolized*] the Trinity of Three Persons; and it was ordained that it should be placed at the beginning of every alphabet, because the name of the first creature of all the creatures which God created was written by this letter, viz., Angel; and the name of the first man that was created was represented by this letter A, viz., Adam; and it was the first of Adam's speech, as the author sets forth:

"I adore, I adore thee, O God,
Was the first speech of Adam of fair aspect.
On seeing the beautiful Eva
He laughed his first laugh."

"Consideration

ii. p. 159: "Item, he shall not assemble the Queen's people *upon hills*, or use any *Irighies or partes upon hills*."

^f *Display*.—O'uaṛait ocup o'iaḡnuḡaḡ, in Mac Morissy's copy more correctly o'fuaṛaioḡ agup o'fuaḡnuḡaḡ. In ancient MSS. the initial f, when aspirated, is often entirely omitted, as in the present instances; but this is not to be recommended,

as it disguises the radix or original form of the word. This omission of the radical letter is called *oicneḡ copaiḡ*, i. e. *initial decapitation*, in Cormac's Glossary, and other ancient philological Irish works.

^g A.—It would appear from this, that the author did not regard the Beluision alphabet as original or authentic, as it begins with the letter B.

Tebeaó ne tur tinnrceabail, no raibredamair romainb, inand
ron ocur ced rmuainiub cindeti caáa caingni ne turgbail caáa
tinnrgebail, do reir mar do rmuain in fir-Ohia for-orða fein na
reacht fair nime, ocur na nae naem-gráda, réir in n-oibneáib
roineamail ré laithe.

Fuaraic ne fear fupogha, da raibredamair romainb, .i. caá
rellramantaáct imar bail ocur mar doirteartair Dia a foror a
fir-eolair, d'airneir ocur d'foillriuáib do áach go coitcéann.

Sumaó iat-fein na ceitpe com-focail no h-orðarigeaó in ur-tur
caáa h-eladna, ocur i ced uaraib caáa caingni, ocur i tinnrceabail
caáa tpepa. Uair ni gnath tpeap gan tinnrceabail, na impeapgan
gan uaraic, na orðain gan urfoga, na uaral-tpep gan airigiu;
ocur din ir oirigda, aigeanta, imcubaid, do'n ealadain ri, ocur ir
dilep, diongbala, per in tpep tuirmech tpeén-foclaó togaibí pea,
laib d' uaraic ocur da urjannuó, d' foillriuáib ocur d' fupogha;
oir dligib dan durgab, dligib fíor foillriuáib, dligib pai raeri
rlonnab, dligib tpep tinnrgebail. Cíó tpea áct, ar eaó ir togbail
ocur ar tinnrceabail do'n tpep ainnur, imcubaid, ugdarba, ollam-
anba pa, imarbaib einig ocur engnama ocur oirbearpa na h-Erienn
d'imraib, ocur d'imluab, ocur d'admolab o rin amach bo deapra.

Oir

^b *Consideration before commencing.*—
Tebeaó ne tur tinnrceabail. The word
tebeaó, *consideration*, is not given in this
sense in any Irish Dictionary, but it is
explained here by the modern word rmu-
ainiub, to think or conceive.

¹ *Setting forth.*—Ceo-uaraib, more cor-
rectly written ceo-fuaraib in Mac Mor-
issy's copy.—See Note ^f, *supra*.

¹ *Exordium.*—Uair ni gnath tpeap gan
tinnrceabail, "for it is not usual to have a

battle without a project." The word tinn-
rceabail is explained "design, project," in
Peter Connell's Dictionary. For a list of
the different kinds of stories among the
ancient Irish the reader is referred to a
vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity Col-
lege, Dublin, (H. 3. 17.) p. 797, where it
is stated that the Irish poets had three
hundred and fifty stories which they re-
peated before kings and chieftains.

^k *Propheied.*—Taipnngreáic tocabala

“Consideration before commencing^a,” which we said above, means the first conception of forming every rule for raising every project, even as the true *and* glorious God himself conceived the seven bright heavens, and the nine holy orders *of angels*, before *he entered upon* the prosperous work of six days.

“Development for a proclaimer,” which we said above, means every kind of knowledge which God distributed and poured out from the fountain of his true knowledge, for stating and explaining *every thing* to all in general.

And these are the four maxims which were ordered to be placed at the commencement of every composition, and in the first setting forth¹ of every covenant, and in the beginning of every *account of a battle*; for it is not usual to have a battle *described* without an exordium¹, a hosting without a preamble, or a noble battle without a proem; and it is just, natural, and proper in this scientific composition, and it is meet and becoming in this excellent, mighty-worded battle, that poetry should set it off and animate it, *that knowledge* should explain and proclaim it; for it is the province of poetry to excite, of knowledge, to explain; a noble ought to be nobly reported, and a battle ought to have a design. Wherefore the design and project of this lively, proper, classical, and poetical battle is to publish, celebrate, and laud from henceforward the supporter of the hospitality, valour, and noble deeds of Erin; for he was the prophesied^k elevator

Tempac: ταιππυγερεαc, signifies one whose greatness, &c., had been predicted. The Irish seem to have had prophecies of this description among them from the earliest dawn of their history, and it appears that they were often influenced by them in their public movements. The saints of the primitive Irish Church

were regarded as the greatest of their prophets, but their Druids and poets were also believed to have had the gift of prophecy before the introduction of Christianity; for the Druids are said to have predicted the coming of Saint Patrick, Finn MacCumhaill was believed to have foretold the birth and great sanctity of Columbkil,

Οἱ βα ἡ-ε ρεῖν ταιρριγεῖταῖς τοῦβαλα Τεμπαῖ, οὔρ ἰδοαναῖ
 ἰλέαπαῖ Ὑῖρη, οὔρ βλαῖ-βίλε βορρηαδαῖ ὀρεαῖ, cenn corname
 οὔρ cabarṑa ἰνρηῖ ἰαῖ-ḡlome Ἐρεnn, ἂρ uall οὔρ ἂρ ἀḡρα, οὔρ
 ἂρ etualang ecṑrann, οὔρ αῖρηῖ οὔρ allmupaῖ. ὅα ἡ-ε α ῑ-
 mainm-ρῖου οὔρ α ῑmṑlonnaḡ annro, οἱ βλῖḡḡḡ ṑeancāḡ ṑen
 eolur οὔρ ροῖceneol na n-οῖρεαῖ οὔρ na n-αῖρḡ-ρῖḡ ḡ'αῖρηῖρ,
 οὔρ ḡ'ṑaḡnugaḡ, ḡḡ ḡeapḡaḡ, οὔρ ḡḡ ḡeῖmṑugaḡ, le ρῖnnṑeapḡḡ
 ρuaῖṑeanta, ρaep-clanda; οἱ αῑα ὅα αḡḡar ο na ἡ-οῖρῑer ḡῖnn
 ρaep ρḡḡnnṑṑṑ ροῖceneoil na n-οῖρεαῖ οὔρ na n-αῖρḡ-ρῖḡ ḡ'αῖρḡῑῑr
 ἡ an ἡḡur ρῖn, .i. ḡḡ ῑmṑraḡ ceṑur, οὔρ ḡḡ ῑmḡḡḡṑugaḡ α
 ḡ-caῖρḡeapṑa ṑe ρeῖṑeap na ρῖḡṑaḡe ṑemṑa, οὔρ ḡḡ ῑṑmṑugaḡ
 α ḡ-caῖρḡṑa ḡ'α ḡ-clann-ḡῖḡḡḡḡ ceneoil, ṑe ἡ-αῖρḡῑῑr α n-up-ρcel
 ḡῖa n-eῖρ.

and a Druid is introduced in the Book of Fenagh as foretelling the celebrity of Saint Caillin and his church of Fenagh, in the reign of Eochaidh Feidhlech, several centuries before the saint was born.

¹ *Two reasons.*—Οἱ αῑά ὅα αḡḡar.—
 A modern Irish antiquary has given better reasons, for the utility of preserving family history, in somewhat clearer language, though much in the same style, in the following words:—"That a genealogical history of families has its peculiar use is plain and obvious; it stimulates and excites the brave to imitate the generous actions of their ancestors, and it shames the reprobates both in the eyes of others and themselves, when they consider how they have degenerated. Besides, the pedigrees of ancient families, historically deduced, recal past ages, and afford a way to those immediately concerned of conversing with

their deceased ancestors and becoming acquainted with their virtues and honourable transactions."—*Preface to the Pedigree of General Richard O'Donovan of Bawnlahan, by John Collins of Myross.* MS.

² *Friendship.*—ḡḡ ῑṑmṑugaḡ α ḡ-ca-
 paṑa, to commemorate their *friendship*. Though both copies agree in this, it is nevertheless most likely that the text has been corrupted, and that the original reading was ḡḡ ῑṑmṑugaḡ α n-οῖρḡeapṑa, i. e. to commemorate their *noble deeds*. This story seems to have been written for the O'Canannans or O'Muldorys, the direct descendants of the monarch Domhnall, and who were chiefs of the territory of Tírconnell till the beginning of the twelfth century, when they were put down by the O'Donnells, who had been up to that time, with few exceptions, only petty chiefs of the territory of *Cinel Lughach*. Another

ḡα

vator of Tara; the scientific, expert *warrior* of Uisnech, the proud-blossomed tree of Bregia; the head of the defence and support of the fair-landed island of Erin, for his pride and bravery, and for his intolerance of adventurers, strange tribes, and foreigners. His name and surname [*as also his genealogy*], shall be given here; for the antiquary ought to declare and testify, prove and certify the ancient history and family nobility of the princes and monarchs, by *specifying* their august and noble ancestors; for there are two reasons¹ for which it is necessary for us to recount the noble surnames of the good families of the chieftains and monarchs in this manner, namely, in the first place, to unite and connect *these families by* their veneration for the reigns of the kings who preceded them, and [*secondly*], to remind the tribes sprung from those *kings* of their friendship^m, by rehearsing their noble stories after them.

What

family of great celebrity, Mac Gillafinnen, was also descended from this monarch, and, till the fifteenth century, were chiefs of Muintir Pheodachain, in the county of Fermanagh, where they are still numerous, but their name is Anglicised into Leonard, which disguises not only their *royal descent*, but even their Irish origin. That the O'Canannans and O'Muldorys were the chief lords of Tirconnell up to the year 1197, when Eachmarcach O'Doherty assumed the chief sway, is proved by the concurrent testimony of all the Irish Annals, in which the battles, deaths, and successions of the different princes of these families are recorded; and by the Topographical Poem of O'Dugan, chief poet of Hy-Many, who died in the year 1372, where he speaks of those families as follows:

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“ Our journey is a journey of prosperity,
Let us leave the lively host of great Macha;
Let us not refuse to wish good prosperity
to that people,
Let us make for the Cinel Conaill.
They will come,—a journey of prosperity,
The inhabitants of that rugged land will
come
To meet us at the Cataract of Aedh (Easroe)
Which will be good luck to that people of
fiery aspect.
The O'Muldorys—if they were alive,
Would come; but they will not come!
Without delay or slow assembly,
To meet us, as would the O'Canannans.
But these other will come—proud their lord,
The Clann Dalaigh of brown shields;
To them by a sway which has not decayed
Now belongs the hereditary chieftainship.”

O

Ḑa cpaeb coibneapa ap cuibde do ceaptnugað, no ap oipceapa o'puapaite, ná paep geinealac poiceneoil an laic-milead o'ap lab-pamar curgbail ocur tinnrcetal ap o-creapa mað go o-creapta, .i. an piren uai-al, oipuniqe, a potair na pineamna, ocur a lubgort na laeapade, ocur a ppeim-geq qaca flaitiura, ima n-oiponeac oipeacar Epenn ocur Alban in aen mað, .i. Domnall, mac Aeda, mic Ainmirec, mic Sedna, mic Perypae Cennpoba, mic Conaill Gulban, mic Neill Nai-qiallaiq, im nae aipmib uqðair acit aipiq no aipb-piq a go h-Aðam n-oipdepc, n-il-clannac, o n-ainmniqter qac aen. Ap e an e-Aðam iin cennbaet cindce, coitceann, com-blutad caqa craibe coibneapa, ocur qnat-bile qarda, qeg-lebuip, qablanaiqti qaca genealaiq, ocur ppiim-iopðau poipbetu, ppi-bileap, potaiqti qacha poqalta pine, ocur tamam toqaiqe, taeb-pemac, tuiniqti, pa tacpaib, ocur pa timpaigib cpaeb-poqla coitceanna caibniura tuat, ocur tealach, ocur tpeb-aicmed in talman, doneoch po qein ocur qeinper, o cet-cpuetugað na cpuinne ocur denma na n-bul, ocur noi n-qnað mme, anuar qur in laithe lan-opðpaic luan-aetcoianach, i pexcar ppiinne bpiunnti, bpeteamanda, bpet-puarlaicteach bpaqa ap poðain.

Aet ata ni cena, ip e in e-apb-flaiti h-Ua Ainmirec cliap dana cpaeb coibneapa po paib-piupap piomand, ipa qart, ocur qnim, ocur qairceð, ipa blað, ocur baib, ocur beoðacit, ipa clot, ocur

This shows that the O'Muldorys and O'Canannans had been dispossessed before the period of O'Dugan. There is not one of either name in Tirconnell at present, unless the latter be that which is now shortened to Cannon, but this the O'Donnells deny. A few of the O'Muldorys, or Muldarrys, as the name is now written, are still extant near Rathowen, in the county

of Westmeath. The O'Donnells do not descend from this monarch Domhnall, nor can they boast of descent from any of the ten monarchs of Ireland who sprung from Conall Gulban, nor indeed from any later than Niall of the Nine Hostages, who died in the year 404; and hence it is obvious, that in point of royalty of descent they are far inferior to O'Gallagher, who descends

What genealogical branch is fitter to be inquired after, or more becoming to be set forth, than the noble genealogy of the heroic soldier to whom we have just now referred the design and project of our battle, namely, the noble and illustrious just man of the grove of the vines, and of the garden of heroism, and of the root-branch of every royal sway, in whom the splendour of Erin and Alba was concentrated, that is, Domhnall^a, the son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, son of Sedna, son of Fergus Cennfoda, son of Conall Gulban, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, from whom authors recount none (i. e. *no generation*) but princes or monarchs, up to Adam, the illustrious father of the various tribes from whom every one is named (*sprung*). This Adam is the certain universal head which connects every genealogical branch, and the only beautiful wide-branching trunk in every genealogy, and the genuine ancient founder and basis of every ramifying tribe, and the excellent solid stock of branching sides, in which unite and meet all the genealogical ramifications of the peoples, families, and tribes of the earth which have been, or will be born, from the first creation of the universe and formation of the elements, and of the nine orders of heaven, down to that notable day of the general judgment, when the truth of the sentence of the redeeming Judge, passed upon them all, shall be seen proved.

Howbeit, the monarch, the grandson of Ainmire, whose genealogy we have given above, is the prince whose renown and achievements, and feats, whose fame, valour, and vigour, whose celebrity, profession, and

from the monarch Cellach, the son of Maelcobha, as well as to O'Canannan, O'Muldory, and Mac Gillafinnen, who descend from Flahertach, who was monarch of Ireland so late as 734, whose father, Loingsch, was monarch from the year 695 to

704, who was grandson of the monarch Domhnall, the hero of this tale.—See Notes E and F, at the end of this volume.

^a *Domhnall*.—See pedigree of king Domhnall, at the end of this volume, Note A.

ocur ceirib, ocur comrac, ira h-ag, ocur ect, ocur aird-ghiomraib,
 inoircear ann ro bo dearta, ic tearargain a tuat, ic dirgab a
 duécura, ic indegail Erenn ar rogail ocur ar ectrann, ar cogað
 eaétriann ocur aineine, ocur allmurach. Oir ir e aineuib ugdair
 in adaið ro h-urmaiðeð ar Domnall do dirguð ocur do oirðneð i
 n-oircehur Erenn, ar i rin adaið ro h-aentaiðib na h-oirceða,
 ocur ro taéaiðib na tuacha, ocur cinnoit no coicceircha, ro ceann-
 raiðit na cethearna, ro dicuirceða na dibeargaib, ro baiðit na
 hibbanair, ro h-aécuirib na h-ainfeair, ro ceilið na clæn-breacá;
 conað í rin adaið aécup caça h-uile, ocur moirca caça maiéura.
 Aét éna, ro failteuð dña in e-aeir, ocur ro peénaiðeirtair na
 peanna, gur ðailret na duile roéraiðeét ir na rianuib, gur taið-
 leað, ocur gur tearalað i-oiillre gneine, do gorað ocur do glanað
 gaça grian popt; conað de rin ro brograt na bhuige boirpáða
 auibuið, ro foirbreatair na h-eaéa ocur na h-ardana, mar ba
 laét-ghenur tuinðit formná caça fuinn; ro éormaiðetar na toirce
 co naé fuilngitir formnáða forgablanna rioðbaib roéuib, ne með
 caça moir-meir gur ub do bárr a boirne no imaineað cach aeðaire
 feir caça riðbaib, ne mallaét caça muicéireoit; ro metañ bliét
 cacha bo-éaéira, ne poplechni ro far formná pep-claétmápa,
 blaétmaiðe

° *The sky then became cheering.*—Ro
 failteuð dña in e-aeir.—It was a belief
 among the ancient Irish that when their
 monarch was worthy of his high dignity
 their seasons were favourable, and that the
 land, seas, and rivers yielded rich produce.
 This is alluded to by Teige Mac Dary, chief
 poet of Thomond, in the Inauguration Ode
 of Donogh O'Brien, fourth Earl of Tho-
 mond, in the following lines:

"Ag lenmuin rið do'n peét éair
 Cicc airir, riðá an eoaib,

ðgeit gaé lan-topaib ne a linn
 'ðgaé leit o'fán-tolaið Fheiolim.

Ié i o-ealmuin, toirceur cuan,
 Eir a riótaib, rin neim-fuar,
 Aige a tá acar taipte feð;
 Le'ri ð-flait-ne tra go o-tuilltar.

Úinfaib fóir, mað feirpoe leir,
 ðreéa luétmápa loinguir,
 Traét inðeirce an mápa mín;
 Raða ir inðeirce u' apo-rið."

and combat, whose prowess, activity, and high deeds *of arms*, in protecting his territories, ruling his patrimonial inheritance, and defending Erin against the inroads of adventurers, and against the attacks of adventurers, strange tribes, and foreigners, are narrated henceforward. For authors relate, that the night on which it was resolved that Domhnall should rule and be elected to the sovereignty of Erin, was the night on which the assemblies were united, the tribes were cemented, the boundaries were fixed, the kernes became tame, the insurgents were expelled, the thieves were suppressed, ignorance was exploded, and partial judgments were discontinued; so that that was the night of suppressing every evil and of exalting every good. In short, the sky then became cheering^o and the planets benign, so that the elements communicated mildness to the seasons, and the rays of the sun became bright and genial, to warm and purify every sunny bank; hence it happened that the rough, unprofitable farms became productive, the crops and corn increased as if the bosom of each land were a lactiferous udder. The fruits so increased that they could not be propped up by forked supporters of wood, in consequence of the size of each fruit; so that with the palms of his hands the swineherd was used to drive the swine of each forest, in consequence of their unwieldiness. The milk of every cow became rich on account

Thus faithfully translated by Theophilus O'Flanigan:

“Assequens regem recti regiminis
Venit iterum, (regium est lucrum),
Diffusio cujuscunque copiosi-productus,
 illius tempore,
In unaquaque parte declivis collis Feilimii.
Ubertas glebæ, proventus portuum,
Pisces in fluminibus, tempestates serenæ,
Apud eum sunt, et fructus arborum,

A nostro principe quodd tempestivè merentur.

Implebunt adhuc, si melius illi videatur,
Series densæ navium
Ora portuum placidi maris;
Optio quod optanda est supremo-regi.”

Trans. Gaelic Soc. vol. i. pp. 12, 13.

This belief also prevails among the eastern nations, whence, no doubt, it found its way into Ireland at a very early period.

blaetmaige caća bpuige ; no bpuetpatap eapra, ocur aibne, ocur inbera na h-Epenn mup-bpuća meapa, maiğreaća, miğglemanaća, cachā moip eipc, co nać tuilleaō ocur nać tacmaingeaō i n-ic̄tap aibeip na abann, i locaib no i linncib, no i loc-ēiprataib lān-boim-nib, co m-biōip na o-taircandaib taptaige, taeb-ēiorma, ap ġarib-adaib ġlan-foillip, ocur ap faic̄ib faen-tpaće, ocur ap boipdaib bpuac̄-foillip blach-inober. Ocur do bai d'feabur aimpīpe an apu-plaća h-ui Ainmīpech, ġo puabpabap poğnaīmaīğ na peapann ġan peiōm, ġan obaip, ġan apathap, ġan tpealam, ġan tacap, ġan tpebairc̄eć do tpiall, no do ēindpcedal, man bad poiřícean a n-airc̄eac̄ ocur a n-airpōiğ 'ğā poic̄ongpāō opno, pe ppep̄cal a pleō, ocur a fuip̄ec plaća, ppi ppiinne a b-plaiteapa.

Uchan ! po b' upupa d'ā h-aic̄niō ocur d'ā h-anaiēniō Epe d'im-luaō ocur d'aic̄iğib ip in aimpīp rin, pe piağaltac̄t a pećt, pe pītamlaćt a pluag, ocur pe paīmpataćt a pīon, pe h-oipmīdećt a h-oipriğ, pe bpeic̄-ēip̄t a bpeic̄eamān, pe poćōip̄c̄ite a poic̄ēep̄n, pe h-ilōanaīğ a h-ollamān, pe peteamlaćt a pileaō, pe h-il-ğlep a h-oip̄p̄ideac̄, pe lop-bpōiğmaipe a leağā, pe coindp̄c̄līğe a cepdaō, pe ġpep̄-tapbaige a ġobann, pe peol-ğnīmaīğe a paep, pe bog-mallbaćt a bancūipe, pe tpeip̄i ocur pe tap̄p̄iğe a tpiac̄t, pe peile ocur pe paic̄iğe a pīp̄-bpuğāō ; uaip pobp̄at boga, ġiaōmapa, bo-cēadaća a bpuğāōa ; pobp̄at pīala, paip̄p̄iņge a poip̄ğneamā, poip̄-plaic̄te

^p*The labourers of the soil, &c.*—The writer seems to have had Ovid's description of the golden age in view when he wrote this description of the prosperity and happiness of Ireland in the reign of king Domhnall:

"Ipsa quoque immunis, rostroque intacta
nec ullis

Saucia vomeribus, per sedabat omnia tellus.
Contentique cibus nullo cogente creatis,

Arbutos foetus, montanaque fraga lege-
bant,

Cornaque, et in duris hærentia mora ru-
betis,

Et quæ deciderat patula Jovis arbore glan-
des.

Ver erat æternum; placidique tepentibus
auris

Mulcebant Zephyri natos sine semine flores.
Mox etiam fruges tellus inarata ferebat.

count of the degree to which the grassy and flowery surface of every farm grew. The cataracts, rivers, and harbours of Erin poured forth such shoals of every kind of lively, salmon-like, slippery great fish, that they could not fit or get room on the bottoms of the seas and rivers, lakes, ponds, and deep pools, but were *to be seen* in dried and shrivelled multitudes on the bright shores, sloping strands and margins of the bright and beautiful harbours. And it happened, from the goodness of the weather in the reign of the monarch, the grandson of Ainmire, that the labourers of the soil^p would not have deemed it necessary to attend to labour, work, ploughing, utensils, gathering, or tillage, were it not that their chieftains and kings commanded and compelled them *to do so*, for supplying their own banquets and royal feasts to prove the worthiness of their reigns.

Ah me! it were easy for one acquainted or unacquainted with Erin to travel and frequent her at this period, in consequence of the goodness of her laws, the tranquility of her hosts, the serenity of her seasons, the splendour of her chieftains^q, the justice of her Brehons, the regularity of her troops, the talents of her Olaves, the genius of her poets, the various musical powers of her minstrels, the botanical skill of her physicians, the art of her braziers, the useful workmanship of her smiths, and the handicraft of her carpenters; in consequence of the mild bashfulness of her maidens, the strength and prowess of her lords, the generosity and hospitality of her good Brughaidhs [*victuallers*]; for her Brughaidhs were generous and had

Nec renovatus ager gravidis canebat aristis
Flumina jam lactis, jam flumina nectaris
ibant:

Flavaque de viridi stillabant ilice mella."

^q *Splendour of her chieftains.*—Oipriū, sub-chiefs.—This word is not given in any printed Irish Dictionary, but it is con-

stantly used by O'Dugan, in his Topographical poem, and by others, in the sense of petty chief; that is, a chief who was subject and tributary to another. It is also used in this sense by some of the early English writers of the History of Ireland, by whom it is written *urriagh*.

plaicéte ar éinn cliar ocur coinneam, gneap ocur glan ocur ghuam
 aitheas; gur ab eas airmid ugdair, co n-imeoas ein-bean Epe 'na
 h-aenar, gan eglá fuachas, na foriecin fuirre, gen go m-beit
 fiafa aga forcoimed, men ba eagla égna, no iéimraio, o tha Or-
 gleann iat-aicenta Umhall, i n-iaréar coigeas Connact, co Car-
 riatic n-oirdeiric n-iondcomartais n-Eogain iar n-iaréar, ocur o
 Inir fob-gloin foitéreamais, feruaine Fail, fir-deirceartais banba
 boru-gloine, gur an m-buinde m-borb-éiu, m-brasfadhach, m-brec-
 linnreach m-buasa, inuno fon ocur gur in ireib rrué-glain,
 rnectais, fir-gairéctais, ruaiónis, reaf-danaig, rluag-bradanais,
 roinemail, rein-dileanda, danas ainm airdiaic, aicenta, EASS aird-
 mor iach-glan, imrearnach, tuimech, tairm-éren timdearnach,
 merriua, maigrech, mur-biartach, urdriac, airtrech, iarc-remur,
 rreb-dian, rpuet-borb, raeb-coiré, riua, raémar, non-cupairtech
 RUADH; ocur tairir rein bo éuaio, mara Teinne bic in bpois, no

¹ *One woman*.—Keating has the same anecdote in his account of the reign of his favourite monarch Brian Boru, as authority for which he quotes the following quatrain from an old Irish poem:

"O Thopais go Cliona éar,
 Ir fáil oir aic pe a h-air,
 A b-plaie dhriain caib-éil nap éim,
 Do éiméill aen bean Eirinn."

Gratianus Lucius, in his Latin translation of Keating (MS. *penes Edit.*), has the following words:—"Adeo accuratâ regni administratione ac severâ disciplinâ Brianus usus est, ut fœminam unam ab aquilonari Hiberniæ plagâ ad australem progressam annulum aureum in propatulo gestantem nemo attingere vel minimâ violatione afficere ausus fuerit."

On this anecdote Moore composed his celebrated ballad,

"Rich and rare were the gems she wore."

² *Osgleann in Umhall*, the name of a valley in the west of the county of Mayo. Umhall, the ancient principality of the O'Mailleys, was co-extensive with the baronies of Burrishoole and Murreesk, in the west of the county of Mayo.

³ *Carraic Eoghain*.—Situation not known to the Editor.

⁴ *Inis Fail*.—Inch, in the barony of Shelmaliere, in the county of Wexford, was anciently called by this name.

⁵ *Eas Ruaidh*.—This wordy description of the cataract of Eas Ruaidh affords a good example of what was considered the sublime by the writers of Irish romantic

had abundance of food and kine; her habitations were hospitable, spacious, and open for company and entertainment to remove the hunger and gloom of guests; so that authors record that one woman^a might travel Erin alone without fear of being violated or molested, though there should be no witnesses to guard her (if she were not afraid of the imputations of slander) from the well-known Osgleann', in Umhall, in the west of the province of Connaught, to the celebrated remarkable rock of Carraic Eoghain,^a in the east [*of Erin*], and from the fair-surfaced, woody, grassy-green island of Inis Fail', exactly in the south of Banba [*Ireland*] of the fair margin, to the furious, headlong, foaming, boisterous cascade of Buadh, which is the same as the clear-watered, snowy-foamed, ever-roaring, particoloured, bellying, in-salmon-abounding, beautiful old torrent, whose celebrated, well-known name is the lofty-great, clear-landed, contentious, precipitate, loud-roaring, headstrong, rapid, salmon-ful, sea-monster-ful, varying, in-large-fish-abounding, rapid-flooded, furious-streamed, whirling, in-seal-abounding, royal, and prosperous cataract of EAS RUADH", and thence

tales; the reader may compare it with Virgil's description of Charybdis; and with Mac Pherson's wild imagery, throughout his poems of Ossian, that he may perceive how the latter, while he adopted the images, chastened the language of the old Gaelic bards. The cataract of Eas Ruaidh is mentioned in the Irish Triads as one of the three great waterfalls of Ireland, and one would be apt to infer from this exaggerated description, that it was as stupendous as the falls of Niagara. It is on the River Erne, in the town of Ballyshannon, in the south-west of the county of Donegal, and though not a high fall of water, is

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very loud, vehement, and grand, especially when the tide is out, in consequence of the great volume of water rolled down the rock, the river being the outlet of the great chain of lakes called Lough Gowna, Lough-Oughter, and the Upper and Lower Lough Erne. It is described as follows, in O'Donnell's Life of St. Columbkille, as translated by Colgan:

"Ad Erniæ marginem pervenit (Columba) celebrem illam spectaturus seu cataractam seu rupem vulgo *Eas Ruaidh* appellatam: de cujus prærupta crepidine totus is vastusque fluvijs sese in subjectum alveum præcipiti casu magnoque fragore

P

no da Mað uill Inninnriðe, co tpaçt poptaib tapm-çpuaide
taepc-diðpaicéca Topaige ap tuaircept.

Sur ob do éapmoltaið tigeppaið ocur d'indcomaréta aimpipe
gan élned, ocur oipeacáir gan aimpinne, in apd-flaéta h-uf Ainmi-
pech anuar conige ioin.

Nip b'ingnad aimpeap i n-indapein aš h-ua Ainmipech, óp do
h-upmaipeð pén paepiðba, poineamail, do'n apd-flaith ocur d'
Épinn i compac pe céile: uair ip e and po uair ocur aimpeap,
ocur air eapcai, ocur paep-laithi peacéttaine, in po h-oipðned in
t-apd-flaith, h-ua Ainmipech, i n-oipecúð na h-Épeann, .i. i tinn-
rgeadal in tpeap cadair comlaine do'n oğ-laithi aigeanta, i
poðbéta in ðapna h-uair déaš ðeaprrgnaithi in cáem-laithi cedna,
ocur i meaðon mír Mai, ocur ba Dia Domnaig ðapaiéti ap ai
laithe pecttaine, ocur in oll-cuigeð ðeağ-aíð eipgi ap rin.

Oip

ingurgitat."—*Trias Thau.* p. 404. Ac-
cording to the Four Masters (ad A. M.
4518) this cataract was called Eas Aodha
Ruaidh, i. e. the cataract of Aodh Ruadh
Mac Badhuirn, who was drowned under
it in the year of the world 4518. See
also O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, Part iii. c. 36.

* *Teinne Bic in Brogha*, was in the pre-
sent county of Donegal, but the name is
now forgotten.

" *Madh Inninnrighe*.—This name is also
forgotten.

* *Water-shooting*.—Poptaib taepc-dið-
paicéca Topaige, water-shooting cliffs
of Tory. This island is situated in the
sea, about nine miles from the nearest coast
of the barony of Kilmacrenan, in the county
of Donegal. It is one of the earliest places
mentioned in the Bardic Irish history, and

is first referred to as the stronghold of the
Fomorians, or African pirates, who made
many descents on the coasts of Ireland, at
a period so far back in the night of time,
that it is now impossible to bring chrono-
logy to bear upon it. In the accounts of
these pirates it is called *Tor-inis*, or the
island of the tower; but in the lives of St.
Columbkille, and other tracts, it is always
called *Torach*, i. e. *towery*, as in this tale,
and the inhabitants of the opposite coasts
of Donegal believe that it has derived this
name from the tower-like cliffs by which
it is guarded against the angry attacks of
the mighty element. This seems to be the
correct explanation of this latter name, for
there are many lofty, isolated rocks on the
opposite coast, called by the natives *tors*,
or towers, and a remarkably lofty one on

thence northwards by Teinne Bec an Broghadh', or by the great plain of Madh Innrighe", to the loud-roaring, water-shooting^x cliffs of Tory.

Thus far the ardent praises of the reign of the monarch, the grandson of Ainmire, and the signs of the seasons *which were* without foulness, and his splendour without a storm.

It was no wonder that the times were thus in the reign of the grandson of Ainmire, for the noble, happy prosperity of this monarch and of Erin were ordained together. For this was the hour, time, age of the moon, and day of the week, *on which* the grandson of Ainmire, the monarch, was inaugurated into the sovereignty of Erin, viz., in the beginning of the third quarter of the bright day, at the expiration of the twelfth hour of the same day, in the middle of the month of May, and as to the day of the week, *it was* on Sunday, and the great fifth was the auspicious age of the moon'.

Time

the east side of the island itself, called Tormor, or the *great tower*. But though this is the true interpretation of its more modern name, *Torach*, still I am convinced that it was also called *Tor-inis*, i. e. Tower Island, from a Cyclopean tower or fort erected on it at a very remote period, of which no vestige is now traceable, and not, as some have supposed, from St. Columbkille's *Cloigtheach*, or ecclesiastical round tower which still remains.

The epithet *ταεργ-ουδραϊαττεχα*, above applied to the cliffs on the opposite coasts of this island, is truly descriptive, as there are many hollow rocks amongst them which shoot up the water to an amazing height. There is one in particular called Mac Swyne's Gun, which shoots the water with so much force, and roars so loudly, that it is

often heard at the Giant's Causeway, in the county of Antrim. From all which it is evident that the writer of the Battle of Magh Rath was well acquainted with this coast, and it is highly probable that he was a native of Tirconnell; and that he wrote the story to flatter the pride of the ancient chiefs of that principality, the O'Muldorys and O'Canannans, the direct descendants of the monarch Domhnall, its hero.

¹ *Age of the moon.*—*Θεαγ-αιρ ειηγι.*—

The word *θεαγ* is here evidently an adjective qualifying the noun *αιρ*, *age*, and signifies good, happy, or auspicious; it is evidently purely expletive. The month of May having thirty-one days, "the middle of the month" will be the 15th day, "at the expiration of the twelfth hour of the day."

And since this day, as our author tells us,

Оир ир аmlаиb ро роbаилтер in аимреар о adam со hаимреp:
 .1. о adam in ортинт, а h-ортинт i m-бpаtа, а бpаtа i pарр, а
 pарр i минuite, а минuite i pongc, а pongc in uаир, а h-uаир i cаdар,
 а cаdар i ллаitи, а лaitи i pectmain, а pectmain i mίr, а mίr i
 тpеimрi, а тpеimрi i m-бlиaδаин, а blиaδаин i pаegul, а pаegul i
 n-aeir.

Ir аmlаиb cuipтер cach ana celi d'foḡlaḡaib na h-аимpире, .1.
 pe h-аdаим lxx. ар тpи ceадaиb in ортинт, ортинт со leit i m-бpаtа,
 бpаtа ocur dа тpиan бpаtа i pарр, pарр го leich i минuit, да
 минuite го leit i pongc, ceitиp puinc i n-uаир, ui. huаире i cаdар,
 ceitиp cаdаир i ллаitи, ui. лaitи i pеaḡtmain, тpиcа лaitи, no лaitи ар
 тpиcаиb, in cach mί, aḡt ḡimḡta oct-ḡictech Feabhra nama.

Conad e rin etepceap na h-аимpире. Cиb pаdа paiceill caḡa
 fellpuim, ocur ипuḡi ḡaḡa h-uḡdаир, ic foillpuḡud ḡaḡa pиp, ocur
 ic plonnuδ ḡaḡa pеncаир, ир eaδ иnpаḡḡeар ḡup in иnаδ cинntи,
 coitceann, cpuḡ-ḡoclaḡ cеaδna. Ir e in т-арḡ-ḡlaith о h-Аини-
 pech, dиn, ир иnаδ ocur ир иnneoиn ḡoḡaḡḡi onḡa а тeḡlaḡ pеиn
 ипuḡe ḡach eolаир, ocur бaире бpеaḡ-ḡoluиp ḡaḡa бpеitиpе ḡар
 ḡaḡram ocur ḡар ḡoḡaḡḡem pḡaḡ-ḡeиm puiḡiḡḡi ḡaḡa pеncаир dар
 тupḡbamaи mаδ ḡup тpартa.

Aḡt cena, ро boi Eиp ḡan иmḡиm aḡi-ḡeиn, ocur Temaиp ḡan
 co-ḡḡaḡ, ocur Taillte ḡan тupbḡoḡ, ocur Uirneḡ ḡan эllneḡ, ocur
 арḡ-cuḡiḡiḡ

was Sunday, and the 5th of the moon, the
 Dominical letter of the year must have been
 B., and the new moon must have fallen on
 the tenth of the month. These criteria
 indicate A. D. 628, the date assigned by
 all our chroniclers to the commencement
 of the reign of king Domhnall.

^a *Division of time.*—See note D at the
 end of the volume, in which the authorities

for this subdivision of the hour have been
 collected and discussed.

^a *Without sadness.*—Temaиp ḡan co-
 ḡḡaḡ. By Teamhair is here meant the chief
 seat of the monarch, for the place called
 Teamhair or Tara, had been deserted from
 the time of the monarch Dermot, A. D. 563,
 as we have already seen.

^b *Taillte*, now Teltown, (from the geni-

Time is thus divided, from an atom to an age, viz., from an atom to an ostent, from an ostent to a bratha, from a bratha to a part, from a part to a minute, from a minute to a point, from a point to an hour, from an hour to a quarter, from a quarter to a day, from a day to a week, from a week to a month, from a month to a season, from a season to a year, from a year to a seculum, from a seculum to an age.

And thus are the different divisions of time proportioned to each other, viz., three hundred and seventy-six atoms in an ostent, one ostent and a-half in a bratha, one bratha and two-thirds in a part, one part and a-half in a minute, two minutes and a-half in a point, four points in an hour, six hours in a quarter, four quarters in a day, seven days in a week, thirty or thirty-one days in a month, except February alone, which has only twenty-eight.

Such is the proper division of time*. Though long may be the moralizing of every philosopher, and the digression of every historian, in elucidating every kind of knowledge, and relating every history, they aim at one fixed, general, definite point. The grandson of Ainmire, the monarch, then, is the theme and principal subject of all the knowledge, and the bright scope of every word which we have written and formed in the series of narrating each anecdote which we have hitherto set down.

To proceed. Erin was without sadness^a, Tara was without affliction, Taillte^b without misfortune, Uisnech^c without corruption, and the

tive caillten); it is situated on the River Sele, or Blackwater, midway between Kells and Navan, in the county of East Meath. Public fairs and games were anciently celebrated here on the first of August, in the presence of the monarch, and a patron is still annually held here on the fifteenth of

August, which is supposed to be a kind of continuation of the ancient sports of Tailltenn.

^c *Uisnech*, now Usnagh Hill, in the parish of Killare, barony of Rathconrath, and county of Westmeath, where public fairs were annually held, in ancient times

arð-cúigib Éireann gan eruppan, o'n aibí na h-aéúpead Ériu ar h-ua Ainnipec, gur in aibí na impereairetur Congal Claen, mac Scannlain Sciath-leatán, a daltá na Domnall dóic-lebair Daire, imb deirbeir na dá n-ug n-urcóidech n-amraetmar n-aibgill, .i. ug cipcí ceipí, clum-puaidí, contraéta, ocur coimpeirt geoiú glan-foigaidig, tréir ar' admilled Éirí; ór gé do badur adbal cúipí eli ic Congal 'man comertigí ioin, .i. im dibad a deirpí, ocur im cpió-eapbaid a cúigib, ir é iménúid in uigé rin ba deapá do-rum Éirí d'fágáil, gur éinuil ocur gur tocartail óg-piostraib Alban, ocur baet-buidni dretan, ocur rluag-neart Saxan, ocur forglá Prangc ocur Fíno-Źall, go h-Éirinn, d'á h-admilled, d'aithe a eranora, ocur do digail a deirpí, ocur a diuibada ar Domnall; gur ob 'man adbur rin na innraigred a celi co cpunn-MaŹ Comair nír i raiteir MaŹ puaid-lindtec Rath; gu rabadar íé raep-laithi na rect-mairi ig imguin, ocur ig imbualad ann, gur na comcpomairgea a cneada; or ba h-innearta a n-eapbada gur in Maire mircuig, mallactaig, mi-dánaig, inar marbad Congal Claen, mac Scannlain Sciathleatán.

Imthura in arð-plata h-ua Ainnipech, adairg Maire na mairm cat Mhuigi puad-linnrige Rath, cib cia na cobail co rabail, ocur co puan-cpóm, ne cliaetair cpire, cuibdi, comraiteca ciuil, ocur ne réirib írle, atcpuaga, ailgeana uirpidec, nír b'e in
τ-αρ-ϕλατ

on the first of May.—See O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, p. iii. cap. 56, reign of Tuathal. See also Ordnance Map of the parish of Kiltare, where the ancient remains on Usnagh Hill are shown.

^d *Domhnall of Derry*.—*Daire*, now Derry, or Londonderry, where, according to O'Donnell, in his *Life of St. Columbkille*, the monarch Aedh, the father of this

Domhnall, resided before he presented the place to St. Columbkille; but this cannot be true, for that saint had founded a monastery at Derry, in the year 546, before the monarch Aedh was of age. It is not to be presumed that king Domhnall had a residence at Derry, because he is called "*of Derry*," in this story, for he is also called of Tara, of Uisnech, of Dun

the great provinces of Erin without disturbance, from the night on which Erin was placed under the guidance of the grandson of Ainmire, until the night on which his foster-son, Congal Claen, the son of Scannlan of the Broad Shield, quarrelled with the same long-palmed Domhnall of Derry^d, about the difference of the two ominous, unlucky, evil-boding eggs, namely, the egg of a blackish red-feathered hen of malediction, and the egg of a fine-feathered goose, through which the destruction of Erin was wrought: for although Congal had other great causes for that rebellion, such as the loss of his eye, and the circumscribing of his province, still it was the spite for that egg that induced him to quit Erin, so that he assembled and mustered the young princes of Alba, the vain troops of Britain, the forces of Saxonland, and the greater part of the forces of France and Fingall^e, and brought them into Erin to destroy it, to revenge the loss of his eye, and the dishonour which he had received, on Domhnall. So that it was for this reason they met each other on the plain of Magh Comair, which is now called Magh Rath of the Red Pools; where they remained for the six full days of the week striking and wounding, during which their wounds were equal, for their wants were not considerable, until the unfortunate, cursed, unlucky Tuesday on which Congal Claen, the son of Scannlan of the Broad Shield, was slain.

As to the monarch grandson of Ainmire, on the night of Tuesday before the battle of the red-pooled plain of Magh Rath was won, though some may have slept agreeably and soundly, *being lulled to rest* by the thrilling, agreeable, and symphonious musical strings, and by the low, mournful, soft strains of minstrels, the monarch grandson

Balair, &c., where he never resided.—See Pedigree of king Domhnall, at the end of this volume.

Fingall the Irish at this period meant Finland, but this is far from being certain.—See O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, Part iii. c.

* *Fingall*.—O'Flaherty thinks that by 56.

John S. Kelly

τ-αρδ-πλαῖτ h-ua h-Αἰνμιρεῖ πο ῥοδαν, πε ceipε in ῥατα, ocup pe himpim na h-ιpγαile; uair ba h-αιριτε ler in αιρδ-ριg a bpuu-dalca baiδe do bpuu-τιuγ-bádúg báir ap na bárach. Conad aipe rin po epig co h-aclam a moch-deaðoil na maíone Mairci moipe maíom-ige, ic breacad, ocup ic bán-foillpugad an air do'n la lán-poluir, comad he céb ní at cithreacδ gpur-taitnem na gíene ic glan-foillpugad ór boρδ-imlib in beata, tpe deig-ιup ocup tpe deg-cpeidem, dpeḗ-pollpigei na diaḗacata tuigter tpuā eolup, ocup tpuā eagnaidect, a glan-puicēib na gíene.

Iρ ann rin po epig in ghuān glan-aird, gpur-taitneamāc, op pep-lannaib porp-glana ppuu-ḡeḡi in ppepui taeb-glain, talmanca, ic apgnañ pe peol-uḗtachaiḡ paigmoḡi puar do comfoillpugad na cethapairdi, itip na da ciup airda, aibteanaḗa, oigpeta, uapda, dap h-opdaigeac na ponnrapaiḡ puicēngail dap taeb-imlib in beata, do tpaetad tpen-bpuḡi teapaiḡeḗta in cpeapa taidlig teinntige, po cumad ocup po cumdaigeḡ dap ceapit-meacdon na cruinne, ocup ip amlaiḡ atait pein ocup da ciup muu-glana, mep-paiḡeḡi, na mop-ḗimcell pe poluctuḡad na rin itip im-aiḡbéli na h-uapdaḗta ocup tpuu-neimnigi na teinntigeḗta. Aḗt ceanna, ip ap in poḗ áp, aibid, paipuiḡ, popleatan, inmedonaḗ, peithec ghuān ap gpur-peannaib gairb-loipceḗa, gepceḗtea gealain, ocup da deg-puud déc doib-pein, ocup xxx. paip, no paip ap xxx. in caḗ puud, aḗt cenmoḗa aen puud, ocup aquaiḡ a ainm-pein, ocup oct-pichtech é, muna bipex in bliadain, ocup maḡ bliadain bipex ip naipictech

^f *Radiant countenance of the Divinity*,— i. e. religion and philosophy lead us to infer the existence of God from the splendour of the sun.

^g *Frigid zones*.—Iup na dá ḗpupápa.— From this it appears that the writer had

some acquaintance with the ancient Roman or Ptolomean system of Astronomy: he may possibly have had before him the lines of Ovid:

“Utque duæ dextrâ cælum, totidemque sinistra

grandson of Ainmire slept not, in consequence of the weight of the battle and the anxiety of the conflict *pressing on his mind*; for he was certain that his own beloved foster-son would, on the morrow, meet his last fate. Wherefore he went forth vigorously, early on the great Tuesday of the defeat, when the morning was streaking and illuminating the eastern sky, and the first object he beheld was the glowing bright face of the sun shining over the borders of the world, in whose rays, through good faith and good religion, through knowledge and wisdom, the more radiant countenance of the Divinity^f is understood.

Then the bright-lofty, fiery-disked sun rose over the fair-banked, unobstructed horizon of the earth, moving with foresails, and uprising to illuminate the four quarters of the world, between the two high, stormy, frozen, frigid zones^g, which were fixed as fastening hoops around the extremities of the world, to moderate the great torrid force of the bright fiery circle which was fastened about the middle of the world. Next to these are two fine temperate zones, to moderate the seasons between the intensity of the cold, and the extreme sultriness of the heat; but the sun moves on the high, beautiful, wide, broad, middle circle, through fiery divisions of scorching lightning, which are twelve in number, each consisting of thirty or thirty-one parts, except one called Aquarius, which consists only of twenty-eight, unless the year be a bissextile one; but if the year be a bissextile one, then it consists of twenty-nine. The sign, through which the sun was travelling the day on which the Ultonians were defeated

Partesecant zonæ, quinta est ardentior illis:
Sic onus inclusum numero distinxit eodem
Cura Dei: totidemque plagæ tellure premuntur.

Quarum quæ media est, non est habitabilis
IRISH ARCH. SOC. 6.

lis æstu;
Nix tegit alta duas: totidem inter utramque locavit
Temperiemque dedit, mista cum frigore flamma."

Q

nai-řictech; ocur ır é rınd ar a peglaim ġrian in laițe rin rınd
caein-řolair Chaingcech. Uair in ix. ad laiți a paiț rampard do
rurğad rin, ocur oț cal. Iul do paiți, ocur Maiř ar paer laiți
rećtăuine, ocur coigead řicett air erci.

[illegible]

Niŕ pupail am do'n arò-ŕlaic d'ua Ainnimec, go po òearrcnaige
a òelb da caic òelb, ocur go po cinned a còut, ocur a ciall, ocur
a caic-oibberc, a einec, ocur a eangnum, ocur a poŕtanilaic, a
gaír,

^b *Cancer*.—I pino Caringcech.—These characteristics of the year indicate A. D. 637, of which the Sunday letter was E., and therefore the 8 Kal. Jul., or the 24th

June, fell on Tuesday. The Golden number also being 11, and the old epact 20, the 29th June was the day of new moon, and consequently the moon's age, on the 24th,

defeated, was the bright-lighted sign of Cancer^a, it being the ninth day of the Summer quarter, the eighth of the calends of July, Tuesday being the day of the week, and the moon's age twenty-five.

This was the time and hour that two general certain protecting signs arose, the most similar, like, and complete that authors ever found to compare with each other, and with the most glorious, radiant countenance of the Divinity, namely, the radiant, brilliant, effulgent, and delightfully glowing face of the sun, rising in the wonderful south-east corner of India, to open the door of its eyesight and royal brightness, to shed its rays, flame, and radiance upon the tribes, nations, and countries of the earth¹; and the great, magnificent, hero-like, broad, bright countenance of the monarch grandson of Airmire, with a glow and brightness, with light and tranquillity, with radiance, comeliness, and beauty, with perfection and form, with nobility and dignity, with serenity and grace, with augustness, splendour, and effulgence, exceeding all the dignified, fair, and beautiful human countenances in the world, rising in the fair-landed, chilly, north-western corner of Europe, before and opposite the bright face of the sun, to believe entirely in, and to view its indications¹.

It was not to be wondered at in the monarch grandson of Airmire, that his countenance excelled every countenance, that his personal form, wisdom, and valour in battle, his hospitality, prowess, and

was, in accordance with our author's statement, 25. It appears, also, that according to our author's calculation, the summer quarter of the year began on the 16th of June. The sun enters the sign Cancer, according to the old calendars, on the ides [i. e. the 13th] of June.

¹ *Of the earth.*—In *calman*.—It is curious that the masculine form of the arti-

cle is here, and in some of the best MSS., connected with *calman*, the genitive case of *calm*, the earth, which is a noun of the feminine gender. The same is observable of the word *tip*, a country, Lat. *terra*.

¹ *To view its indications.*—i. e. king Domhnall rose to view the sun rising, to see whether its aspect boded success in the battle which he was to fight on that day.

gair, ocur a gairceñ ocur a gnimrada, a muiynn, ocur a meirneç, ocur a mór-meanma, a raé, ocur a rigdaçb, ocur a puicheandacé, dar triach-buionib togaib in talman; ár nír iadpac ocur nír compaicreat fa aen duine peme riam, prem a foðla pinechair mar do iadpac fá'n apd-flaie h-ua n-Ainmipech, uair ip iac po na dual-gnimaréa duchura nír ap diallurcar Domnall a cuirib cairdiu-a, ocur a cormaleccé ceneoil na n-oirpeç ocur na n-uaral-aiépeç airniter ocur ainmnigter ime, o Chonn Ced-catac, mac Feolmib Reacémar, mic Tuatail Teacémar, mic Fiachaid Finnola, mic Fearadaiç Finnfechtaiç, mic Cúimthainn Nianáir anuar co Domnall, mac Aeda, mic Ainmipeç, mic Setna íoinemal, potal-gnimaig, ap rin ruar .i. corcur Chuind lair a laéair cata, ocur a cpoðacé i cath-comlann; einéach Airt Aen-íir, ocur a aeððacé pe h-ainnrib; ciall-gair Chormaic hui Cuind, ocur a íoibéi aipd-riig; cornumaig Cairppi Lipechair, ocur a luac-upcair lamaiç; ríchðacé na flata Fiachach, ocur a iap-mairt d'á aicmedaib; meirnech Muirpeaðaiç Tiriç, ocur a termolta tigeairnair; echmaire Echach Muindmedoin, ocur a menmanrad miled; nóir ocur mair-cpoða Neill Nai-giallaiç, 'ma foglaie ocur 'ma prémaiçit neart-clanna Neill tear ocur tuaid, cair ocur tiar; craeb-dearca Conaill Gulban i nglenn-porcaib a gnúiri; Cath-beim colg-duaibrech claidim in Chonaill ceadna rin i n-dorinn-glacaib doir-lebria Domnaill; polt fo-éar por-orða Feargura, mic Conaill, a g-coméuige a éind; ríð-mailgi remid, rích-gorima Seatna, mic Feargura i n-imchumdaç a aigéi.

Odoiriire

* *Con of the Hundred Battles*.—This name is Latinized Quintus Centimachus by O'Flaherty, in *Ogygia*, Part III. c. 60, p. 313.

¹ *Fedhlímidh the Lawgiver*, is rendered Fedlimius Legifer by O'Flaherty, in *Ogy-*

gia, Part III. c. 57, p. 306, and Fethlemi-dius legifer by Colgan, in *Trias Thaum.* p. 447.

^m *Tuathal the Legitimate*, in Irish Tuatál Techtmar, is Latinized Tuathalius Bonaventura by O'Flaherty, in *Ogygia*,

and puissance, his sagacity, feats of arms, and achievements, his spirit, courage, and magnanimity, his prosperity, royalty, and splendour exceeded *those of* the most princely and distinguished tribes in the world; for there met not, and there united not in any one person before, such distinguished genealogical branches as met in the monarch grandson of Ainmire; for the following were the ancestral hereditary characteristics which he derived from his consanguinity with, and descent from the chiefs and noble fathers, who are enumerated and named *in the pedigree* from Con of the Hundred Battles^k, the son of Fedhlimidh the Law-giver^l, son of Tuathal the Legitimate^m, son of Fiacha Finnola, son of Feradhach the Justⁿ, son of Crimthann Nianar, down to Domhnall *himself*; son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, son of the prosperous and proud-deeded Sedna. Namely, he had the triumph of Con in the field, and his valour in battle; the hospitality of Art the Solitary, and his courteousness to women; the wisdom of Cormac, the grandson of Con, and his royal forbearance; the *skill in the art of* defence of Cairbre Lifeachair, and his dexterity at arms; the fierceness of prince Fiacha, and his munificence to his tribes; the courage of Muiredhach Tirech, and his laudability of reign; the chivalrousness of Eochaidh Muighmhedhoin, and his heroic magnanimity; the *polished* manners and beauty of form of Niall of the Nine Hostages, from whom the Ui-Neill, south and north, east and west, branch off and ramify; the bright eyes of Conall Gulban in the hollows of his countenance, and the terrific sword-blow of the same Conall was in the long-palmed arm of Domhnall; the curling golden hair of Fergus, the son of Conall, covered his head; the mild, graceful, black eyebrows of Sedna, the son of Fergus, ornamented his face. The prince
had

Part III. c. 56; but the cognomen Techtmar is more correctly explained lawful, legitimate in the Book of Lecan, fol. 221.

ⁿ *Feradhach the Just*, is rendered Feradachus Justus by O'Flaherty, in Ogygia, Part III. c. 54, p. 300.

Odoirpne éirtecta Ainmíre, mic Seacna, a fíean-áthar fódor i fodail na pláta; gúe, ocur gneann, ocur gnuir-bergi Aeva, mic Ainmírech, a deḡ-athar bobein, i cumbach ocur i comeagari dḡeice delbnaide Domnall.

Conid iat rin na neice ruaióinte, runnraðaca, rin ar diall, ocur rin ar delb-cormailigurcar Domnall i reaméur na nigráide ríeme. Áct éna, rin fúriail dno aen duine fári iadpat ocur fári imcothaigreat na h-ernaile rin uile, go mað éenn coduagci comáirle do cach, ocur go mað tigeapna tionaictech tuarurtail d'uaírlib ocur d'áirí-maírlib, cen co beith poracht na fíearabna rin im aird-rin. Uair ba he rin aen duine dár dḡech-berg-delb-aiged berpnuḡud deilbi do daimib in domain, .i. Domnall, mac Aeva, mic Ainmírech, mic Seacna, mic Fearigura Cenn-fata, mic Conaill Fúlban, mic Neill Naí-gíallaig, mic Echach Muir-meadoin, mic Muirbeaig tuiḡ, mic Fíachach Sparcine, mic Cairpne Lipeáir, mic Cormaic cupata, mic Airt Aenfir, mic Cuinb Ced-cataig, fa comraicir clanna caide, cormáile, corpríed, ciallda, coircenna, craeb-garta, cath-airbeartacha, Cuinb Ced-cataig.

Iar rin innraigir in t-aird-rin co Tulcan na d-tailgeann, ar iar in longpúir, baile i m-bíoir aird-naím Eneann ic tuirbail a trath, ocur a cantain a n-urraigci; gur faíóircar Tair Tann, mac

° *Lively face.*—For the periods at which these different ancestors of Domhnall flourished see his pedigree at the end of this volume.

If these characteristic distinctions of the royal ancestors of king Domhnall were not *imagined* by the writer, he must have had more copious accounts of them than we are able to discover at present. It is probable, that he had ancient poems addressed to

many of them, which have been since lost, in which allusions were made to their personal forms, and to the attributes of their minds; and it is not unlikely that he drew also on his own imagination, which, we have every reason to believe, was sufficiently extravagant, for the qualifications of others for which he had no authority. There are documents still remaining which would bear him out in many of the qualifications

had also the acuteness of hearing which distinguished his grandfather Ainmire, the son of Sedna; and he had the voice, hilarity, and rudeness of countenance of Aedh, the son of Ainmire, his own good father, well expressed in his lively face°.

Such were the particular distinguishing attributes derived by Domhnall from the kings, his ancestors; and it was inevitable that any one in whom all these characteristics were united and concentrated, should not be the head of counsel to all, and the bountiful payer of stipend to nobles and arch-chieftains, even though there should be resistance or opposition to him regarding the monarchy; for he was the only man whose countenance excelled in form and majesty all the countenances of the men of the world, namely, Domhnall, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, son of Setna, son of Fergus Cennfada, son of Conall Gulban, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, son of Eochaidh Muigmhedhoin, son of Muiredhach Tirech, son of Fiacha Sraibhtine, son of Cairbre Lifeachair, son of Cormac the Heroic, son of Art the Solitary, son of Con of the Hundred Battles, in whom all the powerful, fair-bodied, wise, wide-branching, warlike race of Con of the Hundred Battles, meet.

After this the monarch advanced to Tulchan na d-Tailgenn^p, in the middle of the camp, where the distinguished saints of Erin were used to chant their vespers and say their prayers; and he sent Gair Gann, the son of Feradhach^q, to request the arch-chieftains of Erin to hold

he ascribes to some of those kings, such as the wisdom of Cormac, the dexterity at arms of Cairbre Lifeachair, &c.

^p *Tulchan na d-Tailgenn*,—i. e. the hillock of the saints. The name is now forgotten at Magh Rath. *Tailgenn*, which was first applied by the Druids to St. Patrick, and signifies *of the shorn head*, "*circulo tonsus in capite*" (Trias Thaum. p.

123), was afterwards employed to denote any distinguished saint who became the patron of a diocese or parish.

^q *Gair Gann Mac Feradaigh*, is not mentioned in any of the Irish Annals or genealogical books, accessible to the Editor, so that he cannot determine whether he was a real or fictitious character.

mac Fepadaig, d'fhorcongair fop arð-maieib Epeann ar co cinndir
a comairli im cach no im comadaib do Chongal. Iy de fein po
ergidar uairli ocur arð-maie Epeann, ocur iadurac co h-anbail,
orcarða, indrig, fa dpeich n-delb-comarðais n-Domnall, ocur
ðelbair Domnall na briaera beca fa do ceiptugad na comairli
pe cach, ocur d'puarast a h-aðbair ocur a h-aiceanta:

Cio do g  n pe Congal Claen,
a puirpe nime na naem?
n   uil dam beir   im be  aid,
ic mac Scannlain Scia  -leathain.

Da tr  igeap mo rigi peill
do Chongal in   airce   g  ir,
canraitep 'gum   ua  aib tpeill,
na   am rig puanaid, po   enn.

Da tugap ca   iy Congal,
ta     rig Cuailn   na   -comram;
durran dal i tiagap ann,
ta     a   alta le Domnall.

Fop g  i gnai   ppainteap gala:
ibid bpaia doirbi, duba,
p  p  d paep-clann ap cach     ,
biaid   g  n dana haich  .

Cio do   .

Iy and rin po   innret na cuigedais a comairli, ocur n   eap-
aentais in t-ar  -plai   h-ua Ainmirech na n-agaib-fein; ocur ba
h-i comairli po   indret, gan beir   fa comadaib claena, cenntroma,
codarrna  a Chongail, a  t ca   do   inned ina comair, ocur a
  oiccepa  i do traethad gan tepar  ain, ap la  air in laithe rin.
Iy de rin po epig in t-  ir  -p  g, ocur po up  ogais a oll-  u   indrig
oi air  , do   r  ra  t   arr  aidi   ruad-  oillri   aibeal; ocur iy e  
po paider  ar piu:

Erigid,

hold a consultation about whether battle or conditions should be given to Congal. Wherefore the nobles and arch-chieftains rose up, and proudly, nobly and majestically closed around the well-known remarkable countenance of Domhnall; and Domhnall composed the few words following to interrogate all as to the counsel, and to set forth its cause and nature:

“What shall we do with Congal Claen,
 O Lord of heaven of saints?
 I cannot remain in life
 With the son of Scannlann of the Broad Shield.
 If I resign my noble kingdom
 To Congal of fierce valour,
 It will be said among my tribes awhile
 That I am not a mighty or firm king.
 If I give battle to Congal,
 That king of Cuailgne *renowned* for feats shall fall;
 Mournful the event which will happen there,
 His foster-son shall fall by Domhnall.
 Against the false *ones* battles are ever gained:
 Ravenous black ravens shall drink *of blood*,
 Some nobles from every house shall perish,
 There is a youth on whom it will be a stain.
 What shall,” &c.

Then the provincialists held a council, and the monarch grandson of Ainmire did not dissent from them; and the resolution to which they came was, not to submit to unjust, exorbitant, and unreasonable conditions from Congal, but to give him battle, and put down his ambition without mercy on that very day. Wherefore, the monarch rose and raised his powerful regal voice on high, to exhort the bright-cheeked youths of the Gaels, and spake to them in this wise:

Εργιδ, εργιδ, α ογυ, αρ ιν τ-αιρδ-ριγ, co hercaid, ocur co haentaðac, co cobraid, ocur co cellide, co nearpmar, nearm-rcat-ach, ne pperetal na porécmi rea Ulad ocur allmarach; acé čena gura percar plaitiura, ocur gura h-athčur aipečair d'Ull-taid ocur d'allmarčaid a combaig ocur a comerđi ne claen-bidgaib Chongail in bari cenn-ri do'n čur ra; ocur din gura tačar tiug-ba gan tearargain do Chongal cach cat-choma čomégni čuingear; uair ni dliđ tarb tnuč-meap, tpoðac a čepargain, na duine co n-oll-žníniaib diabail diltud, muna taidliđtea o tpiom-čraide, uair buo étrumaioi a iargno ocur a oipčipecht agum-ra, ocur buo ciúimide a cpičh-gallpa cúmað im cpiide, žib geogaintep mo čpičp-balta cpaide Congal. Ocur a lučt in taeib ri čear ám ale, bari aipd-riđ Epenn, .i. a apd-članna Oilella Uluim, ocur a deđ-članna dēdla Dáirpine, ocur a clann-maicne cpoða Conaipe, ocur a čaem-čined

¹ *Olioll Olum.*—Α apo članna Oilella Uluim.—Olioll Olum was king of Munster about the year 237. He is the ancestor of the O'Briens, Mac Carthys, O'Donovans, O'Sullivans, O'Donohoes, and of almost all the distinguished families of Munster, of Milesian descent. Of all his descendants the O'Donovans are the senior, being descended from Daire Cearb, the second son of Olioll Flannbeg, king of Munster, and senior representative of Olioll Olum, while the Mac Carthys, and all the other families of the Eugenian line, are descended from Lughaidh, the third son of the same king. The descendants of Eochaidh, his eldest son, became extinct in Crimthann Mor Mac Fidaigh, one of the most celebrated of the Irish Monarchs, who began his reign about the year of our Lord 366.—See O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, Part III.

c. 81. See also Note G, at the end of this volume.

² *Race of Dairfhine.*—Deđ-članna dēdla Dáirpine. These were a powerful people in Munster in the second, third, and fourth centuries, not considered to be of Milesian descent, but their power was much crippled by the race of Olioll Olum in later times. After the establishment of surnames in Ireland the principal families of this race were the following: O'Driscol, O'Coffey, O'Curnin, O'Flynn Arda, O'Baire of Munter-Bhaire, O'Leary of Rosscarbery, O'Trevor of Kilfergus, all in Munster, and Mac Clancy of Dartry, in the county of Leitrim in Connaught.—See Keating, *Pedigree of O'Driscol*.

³ *Conairē.*—Clann-maicne cpoða Conaipe.—These were the descendants of Conairē II., who was monarch of Ireland

"Arise, arise, O youths," said the monarch, "quickly and unanimously, firmly and prudently, vigorously and fearlessly, to meet this attack of the Ultonians and foreigners; so that the evening of the reign and the destruction of the dominion of the Ultonians and foreigners shall be brought about, who are on this occasion joined and implicated in this iniquitous insurrection of Congal against you; and so that the battle reparations, which Congal so loudly demands, may be the battle in which his own final destruction shall be wrought; for a furious, enraged bull is not entitled to protection, nor a man with the daring deeds of a demon to forgiveness, unless, indeed, he is purified by repentance; (for even though the beloved nursling of my heart, Congal, should be slain, his sorrow and regret *for his crimes* would make me lighter, and his anguish *for past offences* would render my wounded heart calmer). And you, men of the south," said the monarch of Erin, "you high descendants of Olioll Olum', you good and valiant race of Dairfhine', you brave progeny of Conairè', you fair, protecting offspring of Cathair", and
you

about the year 212. A very distinguished branch of them passed over into Scotland, where, as venerable Bede informs us, "They obtained settlements among the Picts either by an alliance or by the sword;" but the people here addressed by the monarch Domhnall were the inhabitants of Muscraighe Mitine, in the present county of Cork; of Muscraighe Breogain, now the barony of Clanwilliam, in the county of Tipperary; of Muscraighe Thire, now the baronies of Upper and Lower Ormond, in the same county; and of Corca-Bhaiscinn, now the baronies of Moyarta and Clonderalaw, in the south-west of the county of Clare, in all which the descendants of this

monarch, Conairè, were then settled. The families then settled in these territories were a few centuries afterwards possessed by the descendants of Olioll Olum, so that we have no account of the chieftains of this race in modern times, with the exception of the O'Donnells of Corca Bhaiscinn, who, however, sank under the Mac Mahons (a branch of the O'Briens of Thomond), in the fourteenth century.—See O'Heerin's Topographical Poem, for the possessions of the descendants of king Conairè, at the Anglo-Norman Invasion of Ireland.

^u *Protecting offspring of Cathair*.—Caem-
cine cornamác Cactair.—These were the

cáem-cíneð cornamác Catáir, ocur a mór-Leat maíoméð Moga
 co coitcenn aréna, cuimnígíð-ri do Congal na góire-briatara gera,
 glám-aítreca geoin do raídiurtaí rið. Gail éon ar oírac a ail
 ar laeð-foirnið Laigen. Tarr tuirc d'á caeb, a aítepc ne
 h-Orpaigib. Druide ar daiirteig ádurubao ar deð-pluagaib De-
 mumán. Ocur a luét in taeib-ri tuaíð, ðin, bar aipð-rið Eíenn,
 ní luga ip cuimnígíð dia bar cupadaib-ri do Chongal na tiug-
 barainla trioma, tairiemaça tapcapail tuc ar bar tuaíðib:
 Ueth bó bhuíð do bioi a baramail do cat-buionib cioba cneap-
 roill-ri Cpuacna ocur Connaét. Pal rið-éuill ne riíu, riigir
 ie tuaíðib trioma, tairiðeça, tpebairé Teíma, ocur claét Míde.
 Cíð íat m'amaíur ocur mo ðeoraíð-ri fór, ar plait riénaç Fóðla,
 ni luga ípleagao d'á laeðpabaib intamail ainmeð, aítepcch, ecpaíð
 Chongail ar a cupadaib, .i. caep ar geimíun, do raídiurtaí riú.
 Comíð aipe rií, cluiníð ocur cuimnígíð-ri mo tceurca tígernair,
 ocur

descendants of Cathaoir Mor, monarch of
 Ireland, of the Lagenian race, about the
 year 174. (See Ogygia, Part III. c. 59.)
 He is the ancestor of all the distinguished
 Irish families of Leinster (with the excep-
 tion of O'More, O'Nolan, and Fitzpatrick
 of Ossory), as of Mac Murrough, now Kava-
 nagh, O'Dempsey of Clanmalier, O'Conor
 Faly, O'Dunn of Dooregan, O'Toole,
 O'Byrne, &c.

* *Leath Mhogha*.—Mór-Leat maíoméð
 Mogá—Leath-Mogha, i. e. Mogha's half, is
 the name of the southern half of Ireland,
 so called from Mogha Nuadhat (the father
 of Olioll Olum mentioned in Note *), who
 was king of it. For a description of the
 boundary between Leath-Mogha the south-
 ern, and Leath Cuinn, the northern half of

Ireland, see Circuit of Muircheartach Mac
 Neill, *note on line* 128, pp. 44, 45.

* *Ossorians*. — Orpaigib. — The an-
 cient principality of Ossory was coextensive
 with the present diocese of Ossory. It
 comprised the entire of the present county
 of Kilkenny and the barony of Upper
 Ossory, in the Queen's County, excepting
 some very small portions not necessary to
 be specified in this place. It has been
 from the dawn of history one of the most
 celebrated territories in Ireland, and its
 chiefs were considered so distinguished
 and of such high rank, that the monarchs
 of Ireland did not think themselves above
 marrying their daughters. The hero of
 this tale and his brother Maelcobha, had
 both wives out of this territory.

you great and triumphant inhabitants of Leath Mhogha⁷ in general, remember to Congal the bitter, sharp-insulting, loud-abusing words which he said to you. 'A hound's valour over ordure' is his insult to the heroic troops of Leinster; 'the belly of a pig to its side' his saying to the Ossorians⁸; 'stares on the oak'⁹ he likens unto the noble hosts of Desmond¹! And you, men of the north," said the monarch of Erin, "your heroes have not less cause to remember to Congal the last heavy-insulting derogative comparisons he has made of your tribes: 'a cow's udder boiled in water' he compares to the bright-skinned valiant bands of Cruachan² and Connaught. 'A hedge of white hazel before men' he likens unto the heavy, prosperous, active tribes of Tara and fair Meath. As to my own soldiers and exiles, moreover," said the upright king of Fodhla [Ireland], "their heroes are no less degraded by the reviling, reproachful, spiteful comparison which Congal has made to them. 'Caer ar geimium'³ he calls them. Wherefore hear and remember my exhortation of a lord, and my command of

⁷ *Stares on the oak.*—The stare or starling, called by the Irish *opuib*, is a very timid and unwarlike bird.

¹ *The noble hosts of Desmond.*—*Desmumain*, *Desmond*, at this time comprised the south half of Munster, being divided from Thomond by a line drawn from Brandon Hill, in Kerry, to Lismore and Dungarvan, in the county of Waterford; but in later ages Desmond comprised only Mac Carthy More's country.

² *Cruachan.*—*Cpuachnui*, Gen. of *Cpuacha*, or *Cpuacham*, the name of the ancient palace of the kings of Connaught. It is now called Rathcroghan, and is situated nearly midway between Tulsk and Belanagare, in the county of Roscommon,

and the ruins of several forts, and of an extensive Pagan burial ground, called *Roilig na Riogh*, i. e. the cemetery of the kings, are still to be seen at the place.—See Ordnance Map of the parishes of Ogulla and Kilcorkey, on which the present remains at Rathcroghan, with their names, are accurately shown. It is remarkable that the Ultonians of the ancient Irish race still consider themselves as hardier and more warlike than the natives of Munster, Connaught, or Leinster, and would not hesitate, even at this day, to call them soft fellows, not fit for war or hardship.

³ *Caer ar geimium*; it has been thought better to leave this phrase untranslated.

ocur m'fhorcongair ariug ocu' airo-ris oirb-ri; .i. nar ub ríblach, ríul-ríadarcach, ríodiríech ríob i culaib in caeta umaib ar cae n-airíob, aet gur ob cioda cenn-eríoma, comremí harí curíob do éoríam na cae-lairíec; gur ob tenna, eríoma, cae-greámaníaca tuíobíe harí eríen-ferar íe tenntaib eríom-éalman, ocu' gur ba luaeta, leíomíug, leídaríeíug lama harí laeéíraíde i comíearíe harí colíug, ocu' harí eríaríech, ocu' harí cath-ríeíat; ocu' na h-erígeat uaib d'ínníraíugíob na h-ímríearí-na aet cae aen ríur a h-éíraíob a hínídríeíugíob. Uairí ba caeb íe tollaírbíe do éígearína caeb íe feríglonníob harí ríur-laeé-rí, mun ub comíeíra harí curíob co laetaíob ía luae-éoríam: ocu' maíob comíeíra cetíraíba harí eríen-ferar, íabíraíob in íachar ía co íalcíar, íul-boríob, íarb-íeíeíugíeí, íeríleíomíech, marí a íachar. 'Íá íarínnígaírbíe íuíb o aíríurí harí n-uaíal-bíraíthar, .i. na íeíeíainíne ríug-íeíollíurí, ocu' na leíugí logmaírbíe, ocu' na eríaríobí cellíobí, corípríantí, coímbíeíta a erírlach íeírcach, íeírgíeííeídeíech íeírbí-gílaníruíne na íaíabíachíta, .i. Colum Cílle, mac íellíomíba ríur-íugídaríta íeíolímíob, a ííne Neíll Naí-gíallíeíug; gur ub ar aíríurí na h-írlabíra ríob do oírbíeíug in í-íugídarí na íeírbía ííleíob ía, ínaníob ríón ocu' na bíreíath-íeíeíla bíraítharí:

Tabíraíob in cae co calma,

íurí ríug ír ríug-damína,

íraínter ar íluíug Uíab án;

bud cuman leo a n-ímarbíeíug.

Tabíraíob in cae co calma,

íurí ríug ír ríug-damína;

gabar

^b *Columbkille, the son of Feidhlímidh.*— For the relationship between the monarch Domhnall and St. Columbkille see genealogical table, showing the descent of O'Maoldoraidh, O'Canannain, and Mac Gillafinnen, at the end of this volume. Adamnan states distinctly, in his Life of

Columbkille, (lib. i. c. 39.) that that Saint foretold the battle of *Muníto Cethirní*, or *Dun Ceithirn*, which was also fought by Congal against king Domhnall, about ten years previous to this of Magh Rath.— *Colgan Trias Thaum.* p. 349. The Irish generals were accustomed to tell their

of a prince and monarch to you, namely, be not found loitering, gaping around, and unsteady in the rear of the battle; but let the conduct of your heroes be brave and headstrong to maintain the field of battle; let the feet of your mighty men be firm, solid, cemented, and immoveable on the earth, and let the hands of your champions be quick, expert, and wounding in using your swords, lances, and warlike shields, and let none of you go into the conflict except one who longs to approach it; for it would be trusting to shadows in a prince to trust to the exertions of your heroes unless they were all equally anxious to rush to the scene of action to defend him. And if the minds of your mighty men be equally anxious, fight this battle firmly, fiercely, furiously, and obstinately, for this battle is foretold to you since the time of your noble relative, viz., the royal bright star, the precious gem, the wise, self-denying, meek, divine branch who was in the charitable, discreet yoke of the pure mysteries of the Divinity, namely, Columbkille, the good and learned son of Fedhlimidh^b, of the race of Niall of the Nine Hostages." To record this speech the author composed these poetic words:

"Fight the battle bravely,
 Both king and prince;
 Let the noble host of Ulster be defeated;
 They shall remember their emulation.
 Fight the battle bravely,
 Both king and prince;

Let

soldiers, before every formidable battle in which they were about to engage, that victory had been foretold to them in that battle by one of the early Irish saints. As late as the reign of Elizabeth, Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, caused O'Clery

to read a prophecy of this nature ascribed to Columbkille, aloud to his army before the battle of the Blackwater, fought in the year 1595, in which he gained a signal victory over the Marshall of Newry and his veteran English forces.

gabar doib co taetpat ann,
 in da Congal im Domnall.
 Domnall breac, mac Eachach áin,
 ocur Congal, mac Scannlain,
 Aed ir Congal meic Eachach,
 ocur Suibne ræp-breacach.
 Co tí dith bretan co brath,
 ocur dié Saran ræp-gnat,
 co na ría fear beac rair
 d'Ulltaib uair na d'allmarchaib.
 Cret fa tancatar o tig,
 maicne Eachach a h-Albain?
 ropad lor doib Congal ciar,
 ar ulc ocur ar anriar.
 Fégaib lib Congal Cuailnge,
 og na cipe clúim-ruidi,
 cred fil eturru etir,
 ir og in geóib gel-eitig?
 Ir bec d'peoil
 itir uig cipe ir uig geoid;
 mairg do mill Eriud uile,
 tre imreapain aen uige!
 Tarbad lán pect n-babac n-dron
 d'uigib ged in aen inad,

ocur

Congal of Cuailgne.—Congal Cuailgne.—Cuailgne is the name of a very celebrated mountainous district in the now county of Louth, lying between Dundalk and Newry. Congal is called of this place not because he was the possessor of it, but

because it originally belonged to the province of Ulster, of *all* which his ancestors had been kings. The ancient Ulster, as we learn from the best authorities, extended southwards as far as Inver Colpa, the ancient name of the mouth of the

Let them be pressed till there fall
 The two Congals together with Domhnall.
 Domhnall Breac, the son of noble Eochaidh,
 And Congal, son of Scannlan,
 Aedh and Congal, the sons of Eochaidh,
 And Suibhne the just-judging.
 Until eternal destruction to Britain come,
 And the destruction of the ever-noble Saxons,
 So that not one man shall go eastwards from you
 Of the Ultonians or of the foreigners.
 Why have they left their home,
 The sons of Eochaidh from Alba?
 It was enough for them that Congal the black
 Should be in evil and insubordination.
 Behold ye *the conduct of* Congal of Cuailgne!
 What is the difference at all between
 The egg of the red-feathered hen,
 And the egg of the white-winged goose?
 There is little difference of meat
 Between the hen egg and the goose egg;
 Alas for him who destroyed all Erin
 For a dispute about one egg!
 The full of seven strong vats was offered
 Of goose eggs together,

And

River Boyne, and comprised not only the
 mountains of Cuailgne, now correctly
 called in Irish Cuailghe, and Anglicised
 Cooley, but the entire of the county of
 Louth, which now belongs to Leinster.
 At this time, however, Congal was only
 king of Ulidia, and possessed no part of

this mountainous district, for it then
 formed a portion of the territory of Oir-
 gial, Anglicè Oriel and Uriel, which be-
 longed to Maelodhar Macha. It was wrest-
 ed from the Clanna Rudhraighe so early
 as the year of Christ 332.

ocur uḡ oir maille,
 ar uachtar cáca daibce.
 Tarḡara do Congal Claen,
 in tan ro bí aḡ Dun na naem,
 benmaict fear n-Érend uile,
 ba momor in t-íc aen uige.
 Tarḡad do each do cáic ḡraic,
 ocur bó da cáic éánaib,
 uingí d'or i cind cáic lír.
 o Drobair co Dui-binir.
 Tarḡad dó aball cáic lír,
 ocur droigean gan eirlir,
 ocur ḡarḡa,—mor in ḡreim,—
 in cáic aen baile a n-Érind.
 Tarḡad ríḡí n-Érenn dó,
 do Congal Claen, ḡear ba ró,
 mo beḡ-rí, ḡér mor in ail,
 im aird-ríḡ uile ar Ulltaib.
 A edail fén re bliadaib,
 do-rum a h-Érinn iat-glain,
 m'edail-rí a h-Ulltaib, ḡan on,
 a éabairt fear do Congal.
 Tarḡad m'each ír m'éirreab dó,
 do Chongal Claen, ḡer ba ró,

dul

* *I offered.*—Tarḡara, is the ancient form of the pret. first person sing. indic. mood of the verb now written tarḡim, in the present tense, ind. active.

* *Dun na naemh.*—"Fortress of the saints." This is but a poetical name for

Domhnall's own palace, where he had the principal saints of Ireland assembled.

† *Fort, lír.*—*Lis*, an earthen fort, is an old word still used to denote the entrenchments which the ancient Irish formed for defence around their houses.

And an egg of gold along with them
 On the top of each vat.
 I offered to Congal Claen^d,
 When he was at Dun na naemh^e,
 The blessing of the men of Erin all,
 It was a great mulct for one egg.
 There was offered him a steed from every stud,
 And a cow out of every herd,
 An ounce of gold for every fort^f,
 From Drobhais^g to Duibh-inis^h.
 There was offered him an apple-tree in every fort,
 And a sloe-tree, without fail,
 And a garden,—great the grant,—
 In every townland in Erin.
 The sovereignty of Erin was *even* offered
 To Congal Claen, though it was too much,
 And that I should be, though great the disgrace,
 Sovereign over all Ulster *only*.
 His own profits for a year
Raised from fair-surfaced Erin,
And my profits out of Ulster, without diminution,
 Were to be given moreover to Congal.
 My steed and battle-dress were offered
 To Congal Claen, though it was too much,

And

^g *Drobhais*.—Droḃais, now Drowis, a river which flows out of Lough Melvin, in the north-west of the county of Leitrim, and falls into the bay of Donegal, at Bundoowis, on the confines of the counties of Leitrim and Donegal.

^h *Duibh-inis*.—Duibh-inis, i. e. Black River Drowis.

dul dom' dnuim-rí fop m'each,
 i fíadnairí allmarac.
 Tarḡad do Congal na cneé,
 ícc anbail ina eimec;
 tarḡad dó a ní a deiread fein,
 d'ór ír d'airget, na óig-réir.
 Tarḡad na tpi tpiá,
 doneoch no b'fearr im Tempair,
 ocur fciath nír nap gab cat,
 do Congal, do tuir Tempach,
 tuat cach éire caitead de,
 ocur baili cac tuaité.
 Tarḡad plead, ba mop in ail,
 do Chongal Claen, a Tempair,
 gan neac da denum, maó n-gal,
 aét maó níg ocur nigan,
 gan neac d'a h-ól, monar n-dil,
 aét mac mna no fír d'Ulltaib.
 Tarḡad ar m-bennaét fa reac,
 itir laec ocur cleipec,
 ar Congal Claen cpiéche in Scail,
 ar rin uile do gabail.
 Tarḡad ar luigi fa reac,
 itir laec ocur cleipec,
 og tucad ar clap ille,
 nach tap aét tpiá éairíre.

O

¹ *In presence of the strangers.*—This was a token of humiliation on the part of the monarch. Instances of this kind of humiliation are numerous in the traditional

stories of most parts of Ireland.

² *Crick an Scail.*—Cpiéche in Scail, the country of Scal, was the ancient name of a territory in Ulster, but its situation we

And *liberty* to mount off my back on my steed
 In presence of the strangers'.
 There was offered to Congal of the plunders
 A great reparation in his injury;
 There was offered him whatever he himself should say,
 Of gold, of silver, to his full demand.
 There were offered the three eastern cantreds,
 The best around Tara,
 And a shield against which battle avails not,
 To Congal, the prop of Tara,
 A cantred in every territory should be his,
 And a townland of every cantred.
 There was offered a banquet,—great *to me* was the disgrace,—
 To Congal Claen at Tara,
 To prepare which there should be none *employed*,—what an honor!
 But kings and queens only,
 Of which none should partake—gracious deed—
 But the son of an Ultonian man or woman.
 Our blessing was offered respectively,
 Both from the laity and clergy,
 To Congal Claen of Crich an Scail',
 For accepting of these offers.
 Our oath was offered respectively,
 Both from the laity and clergy,
 That the egg brought him on the table
 Was not for insult but affection.

As

have not as yet been able satisfactorily to determine. There is a remarkable valley, a part of the territory here called Crich an Scail. See Book of Lismore in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, fol. 224, b, a.
 anciently called Gleann an Scail, near Slemmish, in the barony and county of Antrim; and it is probable that it formed

O nár gab-ruin rin uile,
 uainn-rí a cunta in aen uige,
 ní h-eicean dun fpeasra pand
 ní ar a eagla nor cairdeam.

O nár gab-ran rin no fer,
 tabraíð-rí dó a ní cuingear,
 dúine ní mebul in mod,
 noða dlig demun dílgoð.

Am goirtibe fa dó de,
 am ailtre ocur am aibe ;
 co trarera dia a dá láim,
 ar in tia do ní in éair,

Mo debaid ír Congail Claen
 ír debaid elltí re laeg,
 debaid mic ír a maðar,
 ír trois deirí deapbriathar.

Mo gleó-íra ír Congail fá'n clao,
 ír gleo mic ír a aðar,
 ír imarbað carat cain
 ní ma tucad in caé rin.

Me po éoguib Congal Claen,
 ocur a mac imarpen,
 do éogbur Congal 'r a mac,
 inmain diar cubaid, comnarc.

Do

^k *Foster-father.*—Stanihurst speaks as follows, in regard to the fidelity between foster-brethren, in Ireland, Lib. i. p. 49 :—
 “ You cannot find one instance of perfidy, deceit, or treachery among them ; nay, they are ready to expose themselves to all manner of dangers for the safety of those who sucked their mother's milk ; you may

beat them to a mummy, you may put them upon the rack, you may burn them upon a gridiron, you may expose them to the most exquisite tortures that the cruelest tyrant can invent, yet you will never remove them from that innate fidelity which is grafted in them, you will never induce them to betray their duty.” On this sub-

As he has not accepted of all these
 From me in *reparation* of the crime of the one egg,—
 We need not give a weak response,—
 It was not through FEAR of him we offered *them*.
 As he has not accepted of these, as is known,
 Give you to him what he desires,
 With us the mode of *giving it* is no treachery,
 'A demon is not entitled to forgiveness.'
 I am his foster-father* doubly, indeed,
 I am his fosterer and tutor :
 May God strike down both the hands
 Of him who doth injustice.
 My battle with Congal Claen'
 Is the battle of a doe with her fawn,
 The battle of a son and his mother,
 And the fight of two brothers.
 My conflict with Congal in the field
 Is the conflict of a son and a father,
 The dispute of kind friends
 Is the thing about which that battle is given.
 It is I that reared Congal Claen,
 And his son in like manner,
 I reared Congal and his son ;
 Dear to me are the noble, puissant pair.

From

ject the reader is also referred to the following authorities :

"Moris namque est patriæ, ut si qui nobilium infantem nutriunt, deinceps non minus genitoribus ejus in omnibus auxilium exquirat."—*Life of St. Cyprian apud Colgan*, Acta SS. p. 496, c. 10.

"Solum vero alumniis et collectaneis, si quid habent vel amoris vel fidei illud ha-

bent." — *Giraldus Cambren. Topographia*, Dist. iii. c. 23, Camden's Ed. p. 745.

"Ita de singulari et mutuo affectûs vinculo inter nutricios et alumnos in Hiberniâ Giraldus Cambrensis in *Topographia Hib.* Dist. 3, c. 23, et alii passim scribunt."—*Colgan*, Acta SS. p. 503, Note 48.

**Congal Claen*.—Mo ðeðaió ī Conguīl Claen.—This shows the extraordinary

Do glún Scannlain tolaib gal,
do éogbura in cup Congal,
do glun Chongail fa caem clú,
do éogbura fein Faelcú.

La na gabai uaim-rí rin,
a mic Scannlain Sciaé-lethain,
ca bpeé beipe, moí in mod,
orm-ra, maread, at aenor?

Gebara uait, mad maíe lat;
tabair dam-ra, do dag mac,
do lam níc, ír do bean maíe,
t'ingean ír do porc no-glar.

Noáa beirí aét rínd ne rínd;
bíod me do teine timsill,
not gonra in gai dheman dub;
noóo dlig deman dílgud.

Ataí a t'aenar feac các ríog
'gom aimleap o tír do tír,
pod leapaigíur tairíur rín,
o'n lo pod n-uc do maíair.

A Laighe do'n leé rí éear,
tíod co trén ír in tpear,
cuimníod Fínd mac Rora
don t-plog co meo meap-gora.

A Chonnaéta in comlainn cruaid,
cuimníod Ulltu fíu h-en-uair
cuimníod Meob ír in cat,
ír Ailell moí, mac Magach.

Q

affection the Irish had for their foster-children.

¹ *Finn, the son of Ross.*—Finn mac Rora.—He was a poet, and was king of

Leinster. The celebrated Irish monarch Cathaoir Mor was the seventh in direct descent from him, thus, Cathaoir, the son of Feidhlim Firurglas, son of Cormac Gelta

From the knee of Scannlan of much valour
 I took the hero Congal;
 From the knee of Congal of fair fame
 I myself took Faelchu *his son*.
 When thou wouldst not accept of these from me,
 O son of Broadshielded Scannlan,
 What sentence dost thou pass,—*it is of great moment*,—
 On me, from thyself alone, if so *be that thou wilt not accept my offers*.
These will I accept from thee if thou wilt;
 Give me thy good son,
 Thy hand from off thee, and thy good wife,
 Thy daughter and thy very blue eye.
 I will not give thee but spear for spear;
 I will be thy surrounding fire;
 The terrific black javelin shall wound thee;
 'A demon is entitled to no forgiveness.'
 Thou art singular beyond every king,
 Planning my misfortune from country to country,
 Notwithstanding that I reared thee
 From the day thy mother bore thee.
 Ye Lagenians from the southern quarter,
 Come mightily into the conflict;
 Remember Finn, the son of Ross¹,
 To the host of many active deeds.
 Ye Connacians of hard conflict,
 Remember the Ultonians for one hour:
 Remember Medhbh in the battle²,
 And Ailell Mor, the son of Magach.

O

Gaeth, son of Nia-Corb, son of Cucorb, Ros.—*Duald Mac Firthis, Geneal.* (MS. in
 son of Mogh-Corb, son of Conchobhar the Royal Irish Academy) p. 472.
 Abhradhruadh, son of Finn File, son of ²Remember Medhbh in the battle.—Cúinn-

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T

John F. Kelly

Α Λεχ Μογα βερνυρ βυαυδ,
 ερεάυδ Ulltu τρια ανβυαυδ,
 κυμνιγίο Cúri na peavδ,
 ιρ μαίετi όγλας Ερανν.

Α ριρυ Μιδε na μαρε,
 τικίο co ερυαυδ 'r α compac,
 κυμνιγίο Cairppe Niafer
 ιρ Ερε Ρινδ, mac Ρεδlimed.

Α cenei Eogain, mic Neill,
 ιρ α Αιργιαλλα δ'έν-ρρέιμ,
 βρυρίο βερννν φα βαν comair,
 ταβραυδ βαν ρειοm aen conair.

Λυαρ in βαν lamaib co m-blavδ,
 ocyr maille in βαν τριαγέιb,
 ναρ ab' céim ριαρ na ραιρ,
 αςτ céim ρογ-αυδ, ρεαραμavil.

Α θεοραδα, ιρ me βαν cenn,
 α amra aille Erienn,

α

νίγiό Meob.—Olioll and Meave were king and queen of Connaught immediately preceding the first century of the Christian era. They carried on a war with Ulster for seven years, to which king Domhnall is here made to allude, to remind the Connacians of their ancient animosity to the Ultonians.

^a *Remember Curi.*—Cυμνiγiό Curi, i. e. Curoi Mac Dairi, who was coteremporary with the heroes of the Red Branch in Ulster. He was king of the Ernaans of West Munster immediately preceding the first century of the Christian era, and is said to have resided in the upper part of

Gleann Scoithin, near the mountain called after him, Cathair Conroi, i. e. Curoi's Fort, to the south-west of Tralee, in the present county of Kerry, where he was murdered by Cuchullin, the most distinguished of the champions of the Red Branch.—See Ogygia, Part III. c. 46, and Keating, in his account of Conchobhar Mac Nessa and his champions. See also O'Connor's Dissertations, for some account of the famous people called the Ernaans of Munster.

^o *Cairbre Niafer.*—Cairppe Niafer was king of Leinster, and coteremporary with Olioll and Meave, king and queen of

O Leth Mogha who *are wont to* gain the victory
 Oppress the Ultonians with eagerness,
 Remember Curi^a of the spears,
 And the chiefs of the youths of the Ernaans.
 Ye men of Meath, of steeds,
 Come vigorously into the conflict;
 Remember Cairbre Niafer^o,
 And Erc Finn, the son of Feidhlimidh^p.
 Ye race of Eoghan, the son of Niall,
 And ye Oirghialls of the same stock^q,
 Break breaches before you,
 Direct your prowess in one path.
 Let there be rapidity in your hands of fame,
 And slowness in your feet;
 Let there be no step west or east,
 But a firm, manly step.
 Ye sojourners, I am your head,
 Ye splendid soldiers of Erin^r,

Ye

Connaught, and the heroes of the Red Branch in Ulster.—See Duaid Mac Firbis's Genealogical Book, pp. 437, 438. See also Book of Lecan, where this Cairbre is said to be of Teamhair (Tara), but it adds, "not of Teamhair, in Bregia, for the monarch, Conaire More, resided there at the time, but at Teamhair Brogha Nia, in Leinster. At the same time Finn, his father, resided at Aillinn, and Ailill, at Cruachain."

^p *Erc Finn, the son of Feidhlimidh.*—Erc Finn, mac Feidhlimidh.—He was the grandson of Enna Cinnsellach, king of Leinster, in the fourth century, and an-

cestor of the Hy-Feilimedha or O'Murphys, who were settled at and around Tullow, in the now county of Carlow; but the Editor has not discovered any account of his hostility to the Ultonians.

^q *Oirghialls of the same stock.*—A cenel Eogain mac Néill, is a Aipghialla o'ennpém.—The race of Eoghan and the descendants of the three Collas are of the same race, for both are sprung from Cairbre Liffechair, who was monarch of Ireland from the year 279 to 296.

^r *Ye splendid soldiers of Erin.*—A amra aille Epenn.—The word amra is used throughout the Irish Annals in the sense

α χείτερνν menmnac co m-blaid,
cat im nio Tempac tabraid.

Iar rin po eridair uairli ocur ardo-maiti Erenn né bhorpuo na m-briatar rin, .i. cae triath co n-a éinol, ocur cae cuigeabach co n-a cath-rodruidi. Ir de rin po ruioigic a ploig, ocur po co-raigic a curaid, ocur po tertaigic a tpen-rii, ocur po h-edic a n-aird-niugaid d'á caebarraib cumdaig, ocur d'il-rciataib imbeagla, ocur po noctait a neart-claidme niam-foillri a lamair a laeé-riuidi; po rglann-beartaigic a rceith ar guailib a n-gaircedac; po cliaé-comardagic a cpaireá comraic, ocur a leabair-gaith-lenna lairpéc, gori ba airbe aigbéil anraia iatrein eturpu ocur a n-étrainn, pe h-innarba a n-eaparaic. Ocur o pobrat armda, innillci, uplama, pa'n innur rin, po h-eagrad aen cat adbal, or-carba, indioig d'pearaib Erenn in aen inab, pa d'péc n-delb-digriar n-Domnaill, mar forglei in t-ugdair:

Do

of a hireling soldier, a mercenary; and it is used in the Leabhar Breac to translate the Latin *satellites*, as in the following passage: "Unitas Diaboli et satellitum ejus, &c., bale i m-bia oentu oibail ocur a ópoc-amur."—Fol. 24, b, a.

¹ *Ye highminded kernes*.—Α χείτερνν. —*Ceithern* properly signifies a band of light armed soldiers. It is a noun of multitude in the Irish language, but the English writers who have treated of Ireland have Anglicised it *kern*, and formed its plural *kerns*, as if kern meant a single soldier.

Ware, in his *Antiquities of Ireland*, c. 12, says that the Irish kerns were light armed soldiers, and were called by Henry

of Marleburgh *Turbiculi*, and by others *Turbarii*; that they fought with javelins tied with strings, with darts, and knives, called skeynes.

It is remarkable, that in this battle no mention is made of the *Gallowglass*, the heavy armed Irish soldier described by Spenser and others; indeed it is almost evident from this silence that Spenser is correct in his conjecture that the Irish borrowed the gallowglass from the early English settlers. His words are: "For Gall-ogla signifies an English servitour or yeoman. And he being so armed in a long shirte of mayle down to the calfe of his leg with a long broad axe in his hand, was then *pedes gravis armorum*, and was

Ye highminded kernes¹ of fame,
Give battle around the king of Tara."

After this the nobles and magnates of Erin rose, being excited by these words, that is, every lord with his muster, and every provincialist with his battle-forces. They then arrayed their forces, accoutred their heroes, tested their mighty men, and harnessed their arch-princes in their protecting helmets¹ and defending shields; and they unsheathed their strong glittering swords in the hands of their heroes; they adjusted their shields on the shoulders of their champions; they raised their warlike lances² and their broad javelins, so that they formed a terrible partition between them and their border-ranks, to expel their enemies. And when they were armed, arrayed, and prepared in this manner, one great heroic battalion of the men of Erin was arrayed under the bright countenance of *king* Domhnall; as the author testifies:

"They

instead of the armed footman that now weareth a corslet, before the corslet was used or almost invented."—*State of Ireland*, Dublin Ed. p. 117.

¹ *Protecting helmets.*—*Da cathbarras cumoug.*—Nothing has been yet discovered to prove what kind of helmet the ancient Irish CATHBHARR was, that is, whether it were a cap of strong leather, checkered with bars of iron, or a helmet wholly of iron or brass, such as was used in later ages. One fact is established, that no ancient Irish helmet, made of the latter materials, has been as yet discovered.

² *Warlike lances.*—*Α κραν, echu com-pac.*—The ancient Irish weapon called *κρανπεσά*, was a lance with a long handle.

It is curious that there is no mention of the battle-axe in this story. The Irish had battle-axes of steel in the time of Giraldus, but he says that they borrowed them from the Norwegians and Danes. The military weapons used by the Irish in the twelfth century are described by Giraldus Cambrensis as follows: Dist. III. c. 10.

"Tribus tamen utuntur armorum generibus, lanceis non longis et jaculis binis: in quibus et Basclensium mores sunt imitati. Securibus quoque amplis fabrilis diligentia optimè chalybatis, quas a Norwagiensibus et Ostmannis sunt mutuati."

Ledwich says that the lance was sixteen feet or more in length.—See his *Antiquities*, Second Ed. p. 283.

Do nochatar aen cath dib,
 iur níg-damna ocur níg,
 no iadpac ambabach reiat,
 fa Domnall foraid, find-liat.

Ar rin no eirig triath buidnech Taillten, .i. Domnall, mac Aeda, fa tri i timcell in cata ar na corugad, d'firrugad a imell fa'n armdaet, ocur fa n-aicbéli, ocur do deáin a n-deirid fa dichraet, ocur fa deghnimaigi, ocur to éertugad a coraig fa tige ocur fa trealmageet, uair ir amlaid no bui brollac borb-ger baob-laramain, bodba in cata comoluta, comehair rin ar na toga do tren-pearaib Clann Conaill, ocur Eogain, ocur Airgiall, ocur no innraig in t-airid-níg gur in maigin a m-boi Maelodan Macla, co maieib Clann Colla fa éneap, ocur ba h-ead no raib-eartar riu: dligeir-ri dul tar cumhairi éaich d'forpac Ulad, ocur d'innarba allmarac, uair nír éiúin bar comaidéir-ri fa'n crich do corpadar na Colla d'forba fir-dilir Ulad, o Glind Rige co dearramain, ocur o Ath in imairg co Finn, ocur co Foréir, mar porgleir in t-ugdar:

Peapann Airgiall, luaiter lind,
 o Ath in imairg co Finn,
 o Glind Rige riap co re,
 co dearramain a m-bheirne.

Don

* *Oirghialla*.—The territory of the Oirghialla was divided from Ulidia by Lough Neagh and the Lower Bann, and by the remarkable trench called the Danes' Cast. In a MS. in Trinity College, Dublin, (H. 3. 18. p. 783.) it is stated that the country of the Clann Colla, called Oirghiall, was bounded by the three noblest rivers in

Ulster, viz., the Boyne, the Bann, the Erne, and the Finn.

" *Ath an Imairg*,—i. e. *the ford of the contest*, must have been the ancient name of a ford on the Lower Bann.

† *Finn*.—Siap co Finn,—i. e. from Ath an Imairg westwards, to the River Finn, which falls into the Mourne at the town

“ They made one battalion of them,
 Both princes and kings,
 They closed in a circle of shields,
 Around the firm, fair grey Domhnall.”

Then the populous lord of Tailteann, Domhnall, the son of Aedh, arose and walked thrice around the army when drawn up into battle array, to examine whether its border was well armed and terrible; to see whether the rear was diligent and prepared for valiant deeds; to examine whether the van was in thick array and well accoutred. For the fierce, sharp, fiery, terrible breast of that well-set and well-arranged battalion was composed of mighty men selected out of the Cinel-Conaill, Cinel-Eoghain, and Oirghialls[†]; and the monarch made towards the place where Maelodhar Macha, with the nobles of the Clann Colla, were stationed, and said to them: “ It behoves you to surpass the power of all in overwhelming the Ultonians and expelling the foreigners, for your neighbours have not been quiet in consequence of the district which the Collas wrested from the real country of the Ultonians, *namely*, from Glenn Righe to Berramain, and from Ath an Imairg to the *River* Finn, and to Foithir;” as the author testifies:

“ The land of Airghiall, let it be mentioned by us,
Extended from Ath an Imairg[‡] to the Finn[‡],
And from Glinn Righe[‡] westwards directly,
 To Bearramain in Breifnè[‡].

Until

of Lifford, in the present county of Donegal.

[†] *Glenn Righe* is the ancient name of the glen through which the Newry river flows.—See note on line 34 of the Circuit of Muirheartach, p. 31. It is on the confines of the counties of Down and Armagh.

and the Danes' Cast, which was the boundary between Ulidia and Oirghialla (see note †, *supra*), extends close to it.

[‡] *Bearramain in Breifne*, in the now county of Cavan. There is another celebrated place of the name on the coast of Kerry, six miles westwards of Tralee.

Until the vigorous Muircheartach^a wrested,
 From the descendants of the fair-skinned Collas,
The tract extending from Glen Con^b in a battle of plunders
 To Ualraig at the oak-bearing Derry^c."

The valiant, bright-armed host of the Clann Colla promised that they would be the most remarkable for bravery of all the men of Erin, and that should Congal and Maelodhar Macha engage, Congal would be slain if he should wait for blows, but if not, that he would be afterwards led captive and fettered. The king was glad on account of these responses, and he turned his face upon the princes of Ailech, namely, upon Crunnmael, the son of Suibhne^d, with the chiefs of the illustrious race of Eoghan about him, and said to them: "In whom is it more becoming to check the unjust judgments of Congal, and to humble the haughty words of the Ultonians, or to protect the race of Conall against violent assaults, than in the princes of Ailech? For no two tribes^e of the old surnames of the men of Erin are the vessels *formed by* one hand, the race of one father, the offspring of one mother, of one conception, of one fostering, but we and you; as the author testifies:

"Eoghan

the son of Suibhne Meann, who was monarch of Ireland from the year 615 to 628.

^a *For no two tribes, &c.*—Eoghan, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, and the ancestor of the Cinel-Eoghain and Conall Gulban, the ancestor of the Cinel-Conaill, were twin-brothers; and, according to Irish history, so attached to each other, that when Conall was slain in 464, Eoghan was so much affected with grief for his death, that he fell into a melan-

cholic decline, of which he died the year after. This fact is commemorated in the following quatrain, quoted by the Four Masters under the year 465:

"Ao baé Eoghan, mac Neill,
 Re deopais,—ba maí a maoin,—
 Tpe ecc Chonaill na g-clearg-cruaib,
 Do b-fuil a uairg a n-Uirce éaoin."

By which it appears that Eoghan was buried at *Uisce éaoin*, now Eskabeen, in Inishowen, not far from the city of Derry.

Eogan yr Conall, cen cead,
diar cõimmeara, cãid, comlãn,
d'én-pect ro comperd, miad n-gal,
ocur d'aen-tairbeart rucad.

**Conid aipe rin ir inann feidm ocuṛ faḡbala, raipe ocuṛ roč-
raiðeēt, buaið ocuṛ báig, ocuṛ bṛáṭairri, no faḡraḡarar n-aiṛpecha
agaib, .i. Eogan óirðniḡi, ocuṛ Conall cornamach, map forḡler
in t-ugḡar:**

**Ἰνάνθ βριαέθαρ νοὶβ ᾿γά τιθ,
ο ρέ παρραὶς ιρ Cairnιθ,
να δά m-βραέαιρ, θρυαθ φρι θρυαθ,
ἰνάνθ βυαῖθ, ἰνάνθ νοῖμβυαῖθ.**

Ocup din fóρ, ní uil d'fóρécin aipd-rige na do éiréidib tige-
nair ag in da cat-aipeét coméneoil rí ar a éli, aét máo pae-
rluaigeb rochair, ocup comeigi catá i combaig in aipechta uainb
'ga teigema in tigeppur; no ar a n-uipmea in aipd-rige; ocup
cú epidein and, ír eicean comtuairpatal cinné o ách d'a éli
tar a éenn rín, mar porgler in t-ugdar:

Լն Եան Բար Բոճ Բիճ Օւիճ
 ար քլոճ Կոնալլ ԵԵԴ-ճուրիճ,
 ԵւիճԵ ԵարարԵալ Եաճ Եւն,
 օ Ե՛Ա ԲրքճԵԵԵ ԵԵ Ե-ԵւրԵ-քիճ.
 Լն Եան Բար Բոճ Բիճ Կոնալլ
 ար քլոճ ԵօճԵւն ճան ԵԵԵԵւնճ,

סליד

^f *The same blessing.*—St. Patrick blessed Eoghan at Ailech, and foretold the future greatness of the Cinel-Eoghain. He also blessed his brother Conall Gulban and Fergus, the son of Conall, on the brink of the River Erne, near the celebrated cata-

ract of Easroe.—See Tripartite Life of St. Patrick, Part II. c. 113, 117, and 118.

In an ancient historical Irish tale, preserved in a Vellum MS., in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin (Class H. 2. 16. p. 316), it is stated, that St. Cairnech of Tui-

“ Eoghan and Conall, without doubt,
 Two of equal estimation, pure, perfect,
 Were conceived together,—honourable deed,—
 And at one birth were born.

“ Wherefore our fathers, Eoghan the renowned, and Conall, the defensive, have bequeathed unto us the same prowess and gifts, freedom and noble-heartedness, victory, affection, and brotherly love; as the author testifies :

“ The same blessing^f to them at their house,
 Since the time of Patrick and Cairnech,
 To the two brothers, cheek to cheek, *is left*,
 And the same success and ill-success.

“ And moreover, these two warlike tribes of the same race have no monarchical controul or lordly ascendancy over each other, save only that the party who happens to possess the lordship or the monarchy should receive auxiliary forces, and a rising out for battle *from the other* ; and notwithstanding this, they are bound to give each other an equal fixed stipend, as the author testifies :

“ When the king of Ailech is king^g
 Over the race of Conall the warlike,
 He is bound to give a stipend to all,
 From the brughaidh [farmer] to the arch-chief.
 When a king of the race of Conall is king
 Over the race of Eoghan, without opposition,

He

len, now Dulane, near Kells, in the county of East Meath, blessed the descendants of Eoghan and Conall, and ordered them to carry the three following consecrated reliquaries in their standards, viz., the *Cathach* [Caah], *Clog-Padraig*, and *Misach Cairnigh*, which would ensure them success in all

the battles fought for a just cause.

^g *When the king of Ailech is king.*—
 For an account of the regulations here referred to, see the *Leabhar na g-Ceart*, preserved in the Books of Lecan and Ballymote, in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy.

dlígib in cedna dib-rin,
 o bur aird-rig h-e uairtib.
 Ní dlíg céctar dib malle,
 tar a cenn rin d'á ceile,
 áct pluairged ne peim naéa,
 ir comeirgi cruad caéa.

Ba h-ead inro fuigil ocur ppegaréta na h-Eogan-claind ar h-ua
 n-Ainmirech, co n-gebdór curnuma ne các cuiged d'ard-cuicedaib
 Eriend do congbaíl cleéi, ocur do cornum caé-laíreé, ocur cío
 iat ard-maíte Erienn uile do impobaó ar h-ua n-Ainmirec ar aen
 ne h-Ulltaib ocur ne h-allmarcaib, co naé beróir a bpoğa d'ugra
 na d'foirceicen imarcaib uad-rom na uairtib-rum, áct a m-beraó
 Congal ar a cairbine, no các do com-áirleach a celi ar laéar in
 láite rin.

Ba faílb in plaíe do na fuiglib rin, ocur no inda uairtib co
 caé cornamac Conaíl, ocur ba h-ead no raibeartar riu: ir dicra,
 ocur ir duépaéctairge dlígíre cinneó ar éach, ina các caé-airéct
 coméneoil d'ár tecaírcepa gur tparpa; uair ir d'á bar cineó
 bar cenn, ocur ir d'á bar n-airéct bar n-aird-rig, ocur ir agaib
 no pagad forlamur plaéa fear Fúim, inuó ron ocur iméongbaíl
 écta, ocur enig, ocur engnuma na h-Erienn, marí forglep iunre
 Neill Nai-ǵiallaig:

Mo plaíe do Conaíl ced calg,
 mo gairced d' Eogan airim-dearg,
 mo críca do Chairppi cáin,
 m'amairí d' Enna inmaín.

Ocur

^h *Cairbre*.—Chairppi, or Cairbri, was
 the third son of Niall of the Nine Hostages,
 and ancestor of the Cinel-Cairbre, who
 were settled in the north of the present

county of Longford, where the mountain
 Sliabh Cairbre still retains his name; and
 also in the territory of Carbury, in the
 north of the county of Sligo.—See Tripart.

He is bound to give them the same,
 As he is monarch over them.
 They are not entitled on either side
 Beyond this from each other,
 Except to *furnish* forces to maintain a prosperous reign,
 And a hard rising out for battle."

The speech and reply of the race of Eoghan to the grandson of Ainmire was, that they would do as much as any one province of the great provinces to sustain the front and maintain the field of battle, and that even though the arch-chieftains of all Erin should turn against the grandson of Ainmire, together with the Ultonians and foreigners, they would not carry off any advantage of battle or force from him nor from them, except what Congal would effect through friendship, or from both sides slaughtering each other on that day.

The king was joyful for these responses, and he turned away from them to the defending battalions of the race of Conall, and said to them, "You are bound to surpass all more zealously and more diligently than any other warlike hosts of our relatives whom we have as yet exhorted, because your head is of your tribe, and your monarch is one of your own assembly, and to you has been bequeathed the supremacy over the men of the West, which is the same as the maintaining of the achievements, hospitality, and valour of Erin; as the words of Niall of the Nine Hostages testify:

"My lordship *I bequeath* to Conall of the hundred swords,
 My chivalry to Eoghan of red weapons,
 My territories to the comely Cairbre^a,
 My foresight to the beloved Enna¹.

And

Life of St. Patrick, Part II. c. 113, Ogygia,
 Part III. c. 85.

¹ *Enna* was the youngest son of king
 Niall. His descendants were settled in

Ocup dín ír oirb-íri fupailtear, ocup in buí leic leagair, cuingí-dect caća caé-laiérech do congbaíl, uair ír íb-íri tuirí tenna, tróma, tréna, tuimbe, turebala tamnaigéi, ocup tarb-pedigéi trear-laiérech in talman; uair ír íat craideta bar cupad, ocup cetpada bar caémileo, ocup ppegaréta bar pírlaeé pírl-laiérechá potaigéi buirbí, ocup baig, ocup brach-merdaé in beáta, map forgleir in t-ugdar:

Conall ne corpad caća,
ne peéctgi neim nig-plaéa,
buirbe, íct, ír engnum oll,
garé, gairigi, ír ciuar a Conoll.

Ocup dín ír ne fine caća pírl agairb-íri airpdena na n-aéarba d'airíur, ocup d'pírl-aórad, .i. a éro do éornam, ocup a éomarbur do congbaíl, ocup duchur gan dírluigad; ocup dín ír do éomarbur Conaill Gulban, or genírbair, Ériu co n-a h-urpannaib, ocup ní díligéire a dírluigad; ocup ír do éomarbur in Chonaill cedna rín airéchuí echta, ocup enig, ocup engnuma na h-Épenn do éoimet, ocup do congbaíl, ocup do cuimnuigad a cluaraib ocup a craidet-vaib bar caémileo; comó íat rín na peécta ocup na po-duéura po fágaðar bar n-airécha agairb ar píct bar ren-aéar, o ploinóter bar ræp éuaéa, .i. Conall glonn-mer, gairlennac, glac-láiríur, garb-ppegaréta Gulban. Áct éena, po pad tuba, ocup po pad tairfemad da bar éuaéaib, da mad topaib po tuited cloé-gnima Conaill gan congbaíl, uair ba h-é-íirbe féigi forneartmar fine neart-clainó Neill, map forgleir in t-ugdar:

Conall mac Neill, mic Echach,
cuingíó cnuaid, calma, cpeacach,

ni

Tir-Enda, a territory containing thirty-quarters of land, in the present county of Donegal, lying between Lough Foyle and

Lough Swilly, and in the territory of Cinel-Enda, near the hill of Uisneach, in Westmeath.

“ And, therefore, it is of you it is demanded, and to your charge it is left, to maintain the leadership of every battle field; for you are the strong, heavy, mighty, immoveable pillars and battle props of the land, because the hearts of your heroes, the minds of your warriors, the responses of your good champions, are the true basis and support of the fierceness, valour, and vigour of the world; as the author testifies :

“ Conall *is distinguished* for supporting the battle
 For the justice of the reign of a royal prince;
 Fierceness, clemency, and great valour,
 Liberality, venom, and hardiness *are* in Conall.

And it behoves the family of every one of you to imitate and worship the attributes of your progenitor, by defending his fold, by maintaining his succession, and by not allowing his patrimony to be lessened; and of the patrimony of Conall Gulban, from whom you are sprung, is Erin with her divisions, and you should not allow it to be circumscribed; and it *is the duty* of the successor of the same Conall to support, maintain, and impress upon the ears and hearts of his warriors, the splendour, achievements, hospitality, and chivalry of Erin. Such then were the ordinances and the great hereditary prerogatives which your forefathers bequeathed unto you, derived from the ancestor from whom your free country is named, viz., the puissant, javelin-dexterous, strong-handed, and resolute Conall Gulban. And it were a great censure and reproach to your tribes, should it be your mishap not to continue the renowned achievements of Conall, for he was the chief prop in strength of the puissant sons of Niall, as the author testifies :

“ Conall, son of Niall, son of Eochaidh,
 A hardy, brave, plundering hero;

There

ni boi do pá-claind ag Niall
commarc Conaill na a cómpial.

Como cuimnigēi ceneoil aird-riū Ērenn comice rīn.

Ciō cia lar ar forbann innrci in aird-riū, no feargaided fear
toḡda, tul-borb, tuairceptač, a tuaircept cađa cornamaiz
Conaill, ne briortud briathar, ocur ne tecarcaib tigeinnair in
ard-plađa h-uf Āinnirēc, .i. Conall, mac Baedain, mic Ninnedha,
o Thulaiḡ Dathi, ocur ó ērachc-ḡortaib Toraiz in tuaircirt;
uair nī lēth leirēin a laidiud, ocur nī mian a mor-ḡrēračt; ocur
no deiriz a dub-ḡai n-dibraicēi, ḡura athcūir upcar co h-ainfer-
gach, ancellid, ar h-ua n-Āinnirēc. Ro ēincartar triur toḡaidi,
triač-airēc, á ceirt-lar cađa cornumaiz Conaill, ar incāib in
aird-riū eirē ē ocur in t-upcar, .i. Maine, ocur Enna, ocur Āir-
nelach, ocur no toḡadair tri leatān rēicē lan-mora i riadnairi
na plađa for eirē ē ocur in t-upcar; ačt čena do čuaid ceirt-ḡa
Conaill tērē na tri rēiačāib ḡruim ar ḡruim, ocur tērē in n-deiriz
n-ḡruimniz diogaimn, .i. or-rēiač oiriz in aird-riū co n-dečaid in
dairēir dibraicēthe, dar briḡad a bibairci, i tul-muing in talman,
ir da trairiz aird-riū Ērenn.

Durpan nač at briinne do bean, ocur nač trēd craid no
clannurcar, ar Conall; uair, dā mad ead, ni aithirpizčara cod-
naču cacha mar tērē-fearaib in tuaircirt, uair ni dluiz ocur ni
dliu

¹ *Baedan, who was the son of Ninnidh.*—
Baedan, Mac Ninnedha, the father of this
Conall, was monarch of Ireland for one
year, A. D. 571.

^{*} *Tulach Dathi*, is probably the place
now called Tullagh-O'Begly, situated in
the N. W. of the Barony of Kilmacrenan, in
the Co. of Donegal, opposite Tory Island.

¹ *Black-darting javelin.*—Dub-ḡai du-

ḡraicē. — The ḡai or *dart* referred to
throughout this battle was the *jaculum*
mentioned by Giraldus Cambrensis, in *Dist.*
III. c. 10, where he says that the Irish
had three kinds of weapons, viz., short
lances, two darts, and broad axes. Led-
wich says (*Antiq.* second ed. p. 283), that
“the *jaculum* or dart is translated *javelin*,
and described to be an half pike, five feet

There was not *one* of the great sons of Niall
So good as Conall, or so hospitable."

So far the family-reminiscent exhortations of the monarch of Erin.

But to whomsoever this speech of the monarch appeared superfluous, a haughty, fierce-faced northman of the northern part of the protecting battalion of Conall, became enraged at the verbal exhortation and the lordly instructions of the monarch the grandson of Ainmire, namely, Conall, the son of Baedan, who was the son of Ninnidh¹, from Tulach Dathi², and the high-cliffed strand of Tory, in the north, for he did not like to be exhorted *at all*, and he did not like to be excited; he prepared his black-darting javelin³, and sent a shot spitefully and rashly at the grandson of Ainmire⁴. But three select lordly chieftains from the middle of the defensive battalion of Conall, namely, Maine, Enna, and Airnelach, *observing his design*, sprang before the king, and between him and the shot, and raised three great wide shields before the king and between him and the shot, but the hard javelin of Conall passed through the three shields back to back, and through the defensive Derg druimnech⁵, i. e. the golden shield of the monarch himself, so that the discharged javelin passed off the side of its boss into the surface of the ground between the feet of the monarch of Erin.

"Oh grief! that it was not in thy breast it struck, and that it was not thy heart it pierced," said Conall, "for then, thou wouldst never again reproach such leaders of battle as the mighty men of the north ;

and an half long."

¹ *Grandson of Ainmire.* — Ua Ainmirech is translated Nepos Ainmirech by Adamnan, Life of Columba, Lib. 3, c. 5. In accordance with which it has here been translated "grandson of Ainmire" throughout.

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² *Derg Druimnech*, — i. e. the red-backed, was a descriptive name of king Domhnall's shield.—See the Tale of Deirdre, in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society, p. 94, for the proper names of Conor Mac Nessa, king of Ulster's arms.

X

dligib duit-riu clann Conaill do laidiub, na do luaidg-gheraect, aet
muna faictea, ocur muna ainigetea laige 'na lonn-ghnimaib pe
bpuinnib a m-biobad. Ocur atberc na bpiathra ra ann :

Ni dliz deag-rluag d'ur-gheraecht

Do triataib ir tainremad,

A laidiub, a luaidgheraect,

Orru mine h-ainigetea

A ndicraect pe h-innraigib.

Cath Conaill ir comdicra

Re cornum cat-laitrech ;

Ced gheraecht a curad-ran

A perg fein, a fearamlact,

A luind 'r a laidipect,

A ciodaect 'r a cobraideect,

A raire 'r a reitrigi,

A peect rioga ro-gurmar

'Da m-bhorcav co biobavaib.

dhorctav for da fearaib-rim

Aiget orro a n-ercarat,

Sleza faena ar faengabail,

I lamaib a laec biobav,

Ic faicill a friteolma,

α

^a *It is not lawful to exhort a brave host.*—

This is the kind of composition called Rithlearg. It is a species of irregular extemporaneous rhapsody.

Poems of this description are generally put into the mouths of Druids while under the influence of inspiration, or of heroes while under great excitement, as in the present instance. Many curious exam-

ples of this kind of metre are to be met with in the ancient Irish historical tale called Forbais Droma Damhghaire, preserved in the Book of Lismore. It is curious to observe the effect which the writer of this tale wishes to produce in this place. He introduces Conall, the son of a king, the mightiest of the mighty, and the bravest of the brave, as actually attempting to

north; for it was not meet or lawful for thee to exhort or excite the race of Conall, unless thou hadst seen and perceived weakness in their deeds in fronting their enemies." And he said these words:

"It is not lawful to exhort a brave host":

On chieftains it is a reflection
 To be urged on, or exhorted,
 Unless in them thou hadst observed
 Irresolution in making the onset.
 The battalion of Conall is resolute
 To maintain the field of battle;
 The first thing that rouses their heroes
 Is their own anger, their manliness,
 Their choler, their energy,
 Their valour, and their firmness,
 Their nobleness, their robustness,
 Their regal ordinance of great valour
 Setting them on against their enemies.
 A further incitement to their men
Is derived from the faces of their enemies being turned on them,
 Reclining lances being held
 In the hands of their heroic foes,
 Preparing to attack them!

Their

take the monarch's life, for daring to make a speech to rouse the Cinel Conaill, or direct them how to act in the battle; and he is immediately after represented as entirely convinced of his error and crime, by a few proverbs which the monarch quoted to instruct him. He becomes immediately penitent, and willing to submit patiently to any punishment the monarch was pleased

to inflict, and, strange to say, the only punishment which the latter thought proper to impose was, that the royal hero, Conall, should not, if it should happen to be in his power, slay Congal, the monarch's most inveterate enemy, and the cause of the battle, because he was his foster-son. This, no doubt, presents a strong picture of ancient Irish manners and feelings.

Α τρερ-γρέραχε γνάταχ-ρυν,—
 De ni petar ppiatilm
 Orpo pe h-uair imperna,—
 Α fuil rein 'gá fabbrannab.
 Iar rin noča pobainge
 Sil Setna pe petrigi,
 Feidm rin cacha pæp-chimio
 Acu pe h-uair n-imlaioi.
 Enna-clann pe h-indi-aigio,
 boguimg pe borb-airlec,
 Caerthennairg pe cat-latair,
 Aengurairg pe h-urrclargi,
 Sil Fidorairg pe pæbar-clep,
 Sil Nindeda ag nearc-bhoriud,
 Sil Setna pe ponairtect.

Α5

° *Clann Enna*.—Enna-clann, i. e. the race of Enna, the sixth son of Conall Gulban, ancestor of the Cinel Conaill. Their territory extended from the River Swilly to Barnismore and Sruthair, and eastwards to Fearnach, in the present county of Donegal.

° *Boghuinigh*.—i. e. the descendants of Enna Boghuine, the second son of Conall Gulban, who were settled in the present barony of Banagh, in the south-west of the county of Donegal, to which they gave name. This territory is described in the Book of Fenagh, fol. 47, p. a, col. a, as extending from the River Eidhnech, now the River Eany, which falls into the harbour of Inver, in the bay of Donegal, to the stream of Dobhar, which flows from

the mountains.

O Eonic co Dobhar oil

Silur ar na garb-ileibcib.

From Conaing, the third son of this Enna Boghuine, the O'Breslens, who are still numerous in Tirconnell, are descended. They inhabited originally the territory of Fanaid, but were driven thence, by consent of O'Donnell, in the fourteenth century, and a branch of the Mac Sweenys, who came from Scotland, was established in their place; after which, as we are informed by Duald Mac Firbis, O'Breslen became a Brehon to Maguire of Fermanagh, which office his descendant retained till the year 1643.

° *Caerthannachs*.—Caerthennairg, i. e. the descendants of Caerthan, the son of

Their usual battle-incitement,
 Which cannot be resisted,
 At the hour of the conflict,
 Is their own blood arousing them.
 After this not tameable,
 Are the race of Setna of robustness,
 They possess the puissance of any tribe
 At the hour of the slaughter.
 The Clann-Enna° are distinguished at the onset,
 The Boghaineachs° at fierce slaughtering,
 The Caerthannachs° for maintaining a battle-field,
 The race of Aengus° for resisting,
 The race of Fidhrach° for sword-fighting,
 The race of Ninnidh° for routing,
 The race of Setna° for firmness.

Such

Fergus, who was son of Conall Gulban.

° *Descendants of Aengus*.—Aengusarig, i. e. the descendants of Aengus Gunnad, the son of Conall Gulban.

° *Sil Fidhrach*.—Sil Fíoparig; their situation in Tirconnell is not known, nor is their descent given in any of the genealogical books.

° *Sil Ninnidh*.—Sil Nínoeā, i. e. the descendants of Ninnidh, the son of Duach, who was son of Conall Gulban.

° *Sil Setna*.—Sil Setna, i. e. the descendants of Setna, the grandson of Conall Gulban. These were the most distinguished families of Tirconnell. That tribe of them called Sil Luighdhech Mic Setna, after the establishment of hereditary surnames, branched into various families, of

whom the most distinguished were the O'Donnells. The territory of the Sil Luighdhech Mic Setna is described in a poem in the Book of Fenagh, as extending from the stream of Dobhar (which flows from the rugged mountains) to the River Swilly:

Tpiucha Epa Ruaiò pébarig
 Maighnich, iargach mberarig
 O Call cáin na cpoðang car
 Co h-Eonich copainno-ēpen-glair.

Tpiucha ðagune m-blechta,—
 Eolcáive lucho na quepta,—
 O Eonich co Dobar n-oil
 Shilur ar na garð-íleibcib.

O'n Dobar oirgip ceona
 Tpiucha Luigoech, mic Sheona

Այ լին Եւո՛ւ Կա՛՛ Կա՛՛-Եւո՛ւ
 Ծօ Կա՛՛ Կոնալլ Կոմալա՛յ,
 Կեո՛ւ մոլե՛տ Կոնալ՛լ,
 Մալ՛լ Կա՛՛ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ,
 Օրո՛ւ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ.

Ո՛ւ Կոնալ՛լ.

Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ,
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ, Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ, Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ! Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ, Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ, Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ?

Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ;

Կոնալ՛լ

Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ,
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ.
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ,
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ
 Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ Կոնալ՛լ.

Lib. Fenagh, fol. 47, b, a.

"The cantred of the boisterous Eas Ruaidh,
 The salmon-full, fish-full cataract,
 Extends from Call Cain of knotty nut
 clusters
 To the noisy, impetuous green river Edh-
 nech.

The milky cantred of Baghuine,
 Let all inquirers know,
 Extends from Edhnech to the bright
 Dobhar,
 Which flows from the rugged mountains.
 From the same rapid flood of Dobhar
 The cantred of Lughaidh, son of Sedna,
 Extends to that bright-coloured river,
 Which is named the Suilidhe [Swilly].
 The cantred of Enna thence westwards
 Extends to Bearnus Mor and to Sruthair,
 Profitable is Tir-Enna of horses,
 It extends eastwards to Fearnach of heroes."

Such are the attributes
 Of the race of brave Conall,
 A praiseworthy tribe of spears.
 Wo to the known or unknown *who insult them*;
 The grandson of Ainmire attacks them
 For a cause which he ought not.

It is," &c.

The king smiled at the haughty and furious answers of the northern, *and said*, " This paroxysm is of the hereditary fury and of the northern madness, O Conall, O warrior! But hast thou heard the mild proverbial string* which authors have left *written* of the remains of their old sayings?"

" A battle is the better of array;
 An army is the better of good instruction;
 Good is the better of a great increase;
 Fire is the better of being stirred up;
 Fame is the better of commemoration;
 Sense is the better of advice;
 Protection is the better of intercession;

Knowledge

This poem then goes on to state, that the race of Eoghan, deeming the territory left them by their ancestor, Niall of the Nine Hostages, to be too narrow, extended their possessions by force of arms as far as Armagh, leaving Derry to the Cinel-Conaill, and Drumcliff to the descendants of Cairbre.

* *Proverbial string*. — The Irish were very fond of adducing proverbs in proof of their assertions, and to this day, a prover-

bial saying brought to bear upon the illustration of any subject, makes a deep impression on the minds of the native Irish, as the editor has had ample opportunities of knowing. But though proverbs abound among them no considerable list of them has ever yet been published. The most accessible to the Irish reader is that which is given by Mr. Hardiman, in his "Irish Minstrelsy, or Bardic Remains of Ireland," vol. ii. p. 397. Lond. 1831.

John F. Kelly

Ferrioi fir fiairfaigib;
 Ferrioi tuir tertiugub;
 Ferrioi gair glan-foglaím;
 Ferrioi fir fáe foglaím. P. c.

Líth gacá labartha leat, a aird-riog Erienn, ar Conall, cáin-
 leat cacá comairlí éugub, ir ciallda no coirceir no comferg; ir
 fíra na fuigí, gura fáe fad-réidighé ferri oğ-briatara ána,
 amairpeca na n-aird-riog. Áet éena, beir do bpeit rmaéta,
 rmuaintig do peét riog, naé digir dar riagail do peétgi, a ríe-plait,
 ar Conall; ir am cirtac-ra, dílar a dohéir, ocur icfara anpí-
 áu, uair ní h-anagra áet fir plaita agairther oirne. beirad
 bpeit n-indriog, n-driog, n-dleir-tenaig, ar Domnall; mar do triall-
 airiu mo éiug-bá-ra gan éaigill, gan comféga, tu-ra do éerari-
 gain gan dícheil, gan dírlugad, ocur mo dalta, Congal, do éaigill
 díut-riu ar colg-deir do claidim, a Chonaill. Ní forbunn plaita
 inarair, a riog-plait, ar Conall, .i. Congal do éaigil. Máda
 comraicrem, cengeltar agum-ra h-é, má iccaid a anpíáú a ur-
 gabail, uair ní bud airpechur engnuma dam-ra do dalta do dí-
 éennad doé' aindeoin ic' fíadnairí, a aird-riog Erienn, ar Conall.
 Conad confad Conaill ocur a éeart briatara ar comerri in cata
 anuair comce rin.

Imthura Domnaill, no delig-rein ré raer-éodnaig dée d'á
 deirb-pine bodein, ie h-urrlaige, ocur ie h-innarba cach pedma,
 ocur cáe forpaigne ar a ucht. Ocur no atchuir aegairpecht
 neir-clainne Neill d'fóirichin ar cáe forpán ar Chellaé, mac
 Mailecaba,

* *Foster-son, Congal.*—Mo dalta Con-
 gal do éaigil díut-riu.—King Domhnall
 is represented throughout this story as
 most anxious that Congal should not be
 slain, because his attachment to him was
 inviolable as being his foster-son.

* *Cellach, the son of Maelcobha.*—Cellach,
 mac Mailecaba.—This great hero was
 afterwards monarch of Ireland jointly with
 his brother Conall, from the year 642 to
 654. He is the ancestor of the famous
 family of the O'Gallaghers of Tirconnell,

Knowledge is the better of inquiry ;
 A pillar is the better of being tested ;
 Wisdom is the better of clear learning ;
 Knowledge is the better of philosophy."

" May the choice of each expression be with thee, O monarch of Erin," said Conall; " the mild success of each advice be with thee; wisely hast thou suppressed my great anger. True is the saying that the pure, noble, sapient words of monarchs are the cause of mitigating anger. Howbeit, pass thy sentence of control; ponder on thy regal law, that thou mayest not go beyond the rule of thy justice, O royal prince," said Conall. " I am guilty; do thou take vengeance according to thy custom, and I will pay the debts due to thee; for it will not be an unjust revenge, but the justice of a king that shall be visited upon us." " I shall pronounce a king-becoming, upright, legitimate sentence," said Domhnall. " As thou hast sought my death, unsparingly and without consideration, I will spare thee without forgetfulness, without limitation, and my foster-son Congal" is to be spared by thee from the edge of thy right-hand sword, O Conall." " It is not the exorbitant demand of a king thou hast asked, O monarch," said Conall, " in requesting that Congal should be spared. If we engage he shall be fettered by me (if his capture be sufficient to pay his evil debts), as it would not be noble valour in me to behead thy foster-son against thy will, before thy face, O king of Erin," said Conall. So far the fury of Conall and his exact words at the rising of the battle.

As to Domhnall he detached sixteen chieftains of his own tribe, to resist and repel every attack and violence from his breast, and he charged Cellach, the son of Maelcobha^x, above all, to watch and
 relieve

who are more royally descended than the ages.—See genealogical table of the descendants of Conall Gulban, at the end of this point of power and possessions in later volume.

Mailecaba, reach cach, ocur cuairt preagra Congail do com-
 pperdal, ocur comairci a ceitri n-dalcad n-decpaidoch n-berb-
 tairiri do denum, .i. Maelbuin ocur Cobtae, Finncaid ocur
 Paelcu ; ocur ro riabnaig ar ardo-maitib Erenn ar a aiele, cumad
 fa cormailri corraigti in cata rin, ocur fa samail a iuidigti, do
 coirigtea cata per n-Erenn co bhuinne brata, ocur atbert na
 briatna fa:

Cleata mo cata-ra fein
 Eogan co Cairpri, mac Neill,
 cuirti fulaing cata Cuind
 Conall co n-a Enna-cloind.

Connacta ir Midig pela
 a riobach cuir combluta,
 Laignig, Muimnig, mer a mou,
 cuige in cata 'r a tégor.

Airigti mo cata cain
 Airgialla ocur mo deoraid,
 me bodein a parca trom,
 pe dinge caich do'n comloinn.

Ir me Domnall, mac Aeda,
 mian lim cella do caemna,
 mian lim Sil Secna gan fail,
 co tpen a h-uét Clann Conaill.

Mian lim Cenel Conaill cruaid
 pomum i rcainnir rciat-buain ;
 Sil Secna, mo chined fein,
 mairg nac imgaib a n-airpéir.

Cennpaelad

¹ *Are Conall.*—In this quatrain Eoghan,
 Cairpri, and Conall, the names of three of
 the sons of the monarch Niall of the Nine
 Hostages, are put collectively as nouns

of multitude to denote their respective
 races.

² *Are the shelter.*—The Irish word *cuige*,
 which is cognate with the Latin *tectum*,

relieve the puissant race of Niall out of every difficulty, to respond to the onsets of Congal, and to protect his own four good-hearted, beloved foster-sons, namely, Maelduin and Cobhthach, Fionnchadh, and Faelchu. And he requested of the arch-chieftains of Erin, after this, that the armies of the men of Erin should, to the brink of eternity, be arrayed to the likeness of the arrangement and position of this battle; and he said these words:

“The props of my own army
Are Eoghan and Cairbre, the son of Niall;
 The supporting pillars of the army of Con
Are Conall^a and the race of Enna.
 The Connacians and bright Meathians
Are its well-shaped thickset wood,
 The Lagenians and Momonians of rapid action
Are the shelter^a and protection of the army.
 The ornaments of my beauteous army
Are the Oirghialls and my sojourners^a,
 And I myself the heavy sledge
 To drive all into the conflict.
 I am Domhnall, the son of Aedh,
 I desire to protect churches;
 I desire that the race of Setna, without remissness,
 Should be mighty in the front of the Clann Conaill.
 I desire that the hardy Cinel Conaill
 Should be before me in the battle of strong shields;
 The race of Setna, are my own tribe;
 Wo to him who avoids not disobedience to them.

Cennfaeladh

is used in old MSS. to denote the roof of a house, and sometimes, figuratively, shelter or protection.

^a *Sojourners*.—*Deopair* signifies an ex-

ile, sojourner, pilgrim, or any one living out of his native country. The *deopair* or sojourners here referred to were evidently hiring soldiers from Scotland or

Cennfaeladh flebach, mac Garbh,
 Fingín coibdenach in Chaínnn,
 triar ele ba decla a n-dreac,
 Maine, Enna, Aínnelach.

Loingreic, mac Aeda na n-dám,
 ocup Conall, mac baedain,
 tri meic Maicoba na claid,
 Cennfaeladh, Cellach, Conall.

Mo cuig meic-rea, deirg a n-dreacht,
 Ferghur, Oengur coibdenach,
 Ailell i Colgu nac gann,
 ocup in cuigeadh Conall.

Ir iat rin crithre mo cuirp,
 plán canic uile 'ma fuabairt,
 reid im caic réd, boib a m-bann
 as teict a n-aigíó ectrand.

Se rin dec do cined Cuind
 ro áirmeap i cenn comlainn,
 ni uil fa nim,—mor in mod,—
 deic ced laic por dingeab.

Ir iat rin togam co tenn,
 i riadhairi per n-Epenn,

umum

Wales who were in the constant employment of the Irish monarch, such as were called Bonnaghts by English writers, in the reign of Elizabeth.

^b *Cennfaeladh the festive, son of Garbh.*—Cennfaeladh flebach, mac Garbh.—The Book of Kilmacrenan, as quoted in the Book of Fenagh, fol. 42, states that this Cennfaeladh had three sons, viz., Fiamuin, the eldest, ancestor of the Clann Fiamuin

or O'Dohertys; 2. Maelduin the father of Airnelach, Snedgal, Fiagus, and Cennfaeladh; and, 3. Muirchertach, the ancestor of the Clann-Dalaigh or O'Donnells.

^c *Finghin, the leader from Carn.*—Fingín coibdenach in Chaínnn, is not mentioned in the Irish Annals or genealogical books.

^d *Maine, Enna, and Airnelach.*—These

Cennfaeladh the Festive, son of Garbh^b,
 Finghin, the leader, from Carn^c,
 And three others of bold aspects,
 Maine, Enna, and Airlach^d.

Loingsech, the son of Aedh^e of troops,
 And Conall, son of Baedan,
 The three sons of Maelcobha^f of clans,
 Cennfaeladh, Cellach, *and* Conall.

My own five sons of ruddy aspects^g,
 Fergus, Aengus of troops,
 Ailell and Colgu, not penurious,
 And the fifth, Conall.

These are the sparks of my body,
 The safety of all lies in their attack,
 Ready in each road, furious their action
 When coming against foreigners.

Sixteen men of the race of Conn
 I have reckoned at the head of the conflict,
 There is not under heaven,—great the saying,—
 Ten hundred heroes who would resist them.

These I select confidently,
 In presence of the men of Erin,

To

names do not occur in the Irish Annals, nor in the genealogies of the Cinel-Conaill.

^b *Loingsech, the son of Aedh.*—Loingsech mac Cleoia, is not mentioned in the Irish Annals or genealogical books.

^c *Three sons of Maelcobha.*—Cp. meic Maicobha, i. e. of Maelcobha, the cleric, the brother of king Domhnall.

^d *My own five sons of ruddy aspect.*—Mo cuig meic-rea.—It does not appear

from the Genealogical Irish Books, or the Irish Annals, that any of these five sons of king Domhnall became the founder of a family, except Aengus, or Oengus, who was the ancestor of the O'Canannans and O'Muldorys, princes of Tirconnell, preceding the O'Donnells, and of the Mac Gillafinnens, chieftains of Muintir-Pheodachain, in Fermanagh.—See Note E, at the end of this volume.

umum fein, tiam ocuf tair,
dom' feitem, dom' imdegail.
Cellac, mac Mailcaba epuim,
uaim d'fupacht cae anporlainb,
pe ppeagha Congail na cpeac,
Cellac cpoda na cae cleat!

Imcypa Congail imraitet againb ataid ele, uair ni feoait
ugdair in da fairnéir d' fuppannab i n-aenfeet, amail arbert in
file:

Uide ar n-uide po foich rin,
airneir cae ugdair eolais;
ni a n-aenfeet po foich uile,
da fairnéir le h-aen duine.

Cio cia ar ar cuipertar ceirt in caea, ni he airb-rig Ulad do
bi co dubach, dobponach, ná co beg-menmnach, pe bpuinne na
bperligi hpaeta rin; uair ba dimain d'a dpaetib deib fairtine
demin do denum do, ocuf nri eapba do eailgenmaib triall a
eegairc; ar ba compab pe capraic d'a eairuib comairli do
Congal, pe h-aplac na n-amaiuead n-ipermaib ag fupail a aimlepa
air; uair nri treicret na tri h-uire uphadaea, ipermaib eipium
o uair a euiruib co trath a euig-ba, .i. Eleacto, ocuf Megera,
ocuf Teripone, conab h-e a riabpab ocuf a paeb-foicetul rin
pavepa do-rum durcab caea dpoeb-dala, ocuf imrab cae a iomari-
bair, ocuf fopbab caea fip-uile; uair ir ann po-eaigertar in uir
inledech,

^b *Rere and front.*—Tiam ir tair, i. e.
west and east. The Irish as well as the
Jews used the same words to express the
right hand and the south, the left hand
and the north, the front and the east, and
the back and the west.—See this fully il-

lustrated in O'Brien's Irish Dictionary, *in*
voce DEAS.

¹ *Authors cannot give two narratives to-
gether.*—Uair ni feoait ugdair.—The
writers of Irish Tales are remarkably fond
of quoting ancient authorities. Here the

*To be around myself rere and front^a,
 To attend me, to defend me.
 Cellach, the son of Maelcobha, the crooked,
 I appoint from me to relieve each distress,
 To respond to Congal of plunders,
 Cellach braver than any chieftain !"*

With respect to Congal, we shall speak of him another time, for authors cannot give two narratives together¹, as the poet says :

*"By progress after progress he passed through
 The narrative of every learned author ;
 Two narratives cannot all at the same time
 Be passed through by one person."*

Whoever felt dejection for the battle, it was not the arch king of Ulster that was sorrowful, dejected, or pusillanimous at the approach of this final defeat ; and it was in vain for his druids to make true magical predictions for him, and it was not profitable for his tailginnns [*clergy*] to seek instructing him ; for his friends might as well converse with a rock as advise him, in consequence of the temptations of the infernal agents *who were* pressing his destruction upon him ; for the three destructive infernal furies Electo, Megæra, and Tesiphone, had not forsaken him from the time he was born until the period of his final dissolution, so that it was their influence and evil suggestions that induced him to stir up every evil design, meditate every contention, and complete every true evil ; for the snare-laying,

author quotes an old poet as authority for his arrangement of the subject. This quatrain seems to have been quoted from the biography of some poet or professor of literature, but it is now difficult to understand it perfectly, as the quotation is so short and the subject matter unknown.

The Editor understands it thus :
*"Progress after progress he made
 In reading the narratives of learned authors,
 Studying them one by one,
 For he could not attend to two together."*

inledeach, eirídan, aibgill Electó ar ceirt-lár cleib ocur cpaide Congail, ic maidem các mriuin, ocur ic fiugrad cáca fíu-uile. Ocur dín in maíng mircnech, mriunaí, mallacínach Megepa do córain a calad-pórt comnaidí ar ceirt-lár cárbait Congail, ic tagra á taiblíb a éngad, ocur ic buadnairí a bunnaícaib a bria-
tar; ocur dín in éenn cleirach, córaidec, éonnetraícta, éromda, éurraíctaí, éuaíe-ebraí Teiríóne tarraid fein ardo-comur aipech-
air ar cuig cedfadaib comlana corparída Congail, comdír com-
díca fein ne forbad cáca fíu-uile. Sur ub trér na h-íuib
ipeirnaidí rin tuicéir na tri pecada pudraíca aimríger các aen,
.i. fíuúdu, ocur imrádu ocur gnom, feib arbert fíuú na
Canóine:

Electó ríuudur các col,
Megepa fíu h-imradu,
Teiríóne fein co fíu
cuiréar các cair í corp-gnóm.

Conad he a n-arlaí ocur a n-impeir-fein air-rim fa deira do
gan cómaírlí a cápat do éuimniugaí, ocur ír íat fa deira dó beir
co merda, micellíu ítrí Ulltaib ocur allmarcaib adair Máirtí
ne maidem cáca Muigí ruad-linnic Rath, co tainic trath ruain
ocur ráim-cóbulca do na pluagaib; ocur ío cóbail Congal íar rin
ne cuim-fogair na cuir-leann cuil, ocur ne forcad raídeímail,
ruaraídech, fíu-truaí na téo ocur na timpán 'ga taball d'aigéib
ocur d'fórmnadaib eand ocur ingen na ruad 'gá rap-féim. Áct
éna, ba éinnabrad érech do Congal in cóbla ríu, do feir mar ír
gnat ruba ocur rámaígeí fíu-cóbulca íc aimniugaí các aín ne
bpuinne

1 *Fothadh na Canoine*, here quoted as authority for the office of the three Furies, was lecturer of Armagh in the year 799.—

See *Annals of the Four Masters* at that year, and Colgan, *Acta SS.* p. 783.

* *Tympans*.—Timpán.—Various pas-

laying, impure, and wicked fury, Electo, took up her abode in the very centre of the breast and heart of Congal, suggesting every evil resolution and pointing out every true evil to him. And also the woeful, ill-designing, wicked Megæra placed her resident fortress in the very middle of Congal's palate, to hurl defiance from the battlements of his tongue, and to threaten with the scourges of his words. And the tricky, evil-teaching, cursed, morose, backbiting Tesiphone assumed absolute sway over the five corporeal senses of Congal, so that they (the three Furies) were diligent to accomplish every true evil. By these three infernal Furies is understood the three evils which tempt every one, viz., Thought, Word, and Deed, as Fothadh na Canoine¹ said :

“ Electo thinks of every sin,
 Megæra is for reporting,
 And Tesiphone herself truly
 Puts every crime into bodily execution.”

And it was *the influence* of their temptation and solicitation of him that induced him not to attend to the advice of his friends, and it was they that caused him to be confused and senseless between the Ultonians and foreigners, on the Tuesday night before the loss of the battle of the red-pooled plain of Magh Rath, until the time of rest and soft repose arrived for the armies. And after this Congal slept, *being lulled to rest* by the soft sounds of the musical pipes and by the warbling vibrations and melancholy notes of the strings and tympan^s struck by the tops, sides, and nails of the fingers of the minstrels, who so exquisitely performed on them. However, this sleep was a miserable repose to Congal ; but indeed hilarity and agreeable sleep

ages can be produced to show that the and not a drum, as might be supposed
 Irish tympan was a stringed instrument, from the name.

briuinne báir, ocur pe h-fónaib aibéda. Ác̃t čena, nír cumrcaig Congal ar in cochlud rin gur čan Dubbiao d̃rai na b̃riačra beca ra:

Á Chongail Chlaín comeirig,
Cindret t'ecraic h'indraigib;
Oro meli mian ruain rin-laiŋe;
Suan pe b̃ar b̃ričt bodba;
beg b̃riŋa bebrac bi bač m̃olác;
Moc-eirge mian feinned ocur p̃ričaire;
Forčed n-galann g̃ričh-mao nemčor m̃odba;
d̃ruč fola,—eačrair čurao,—
Chugut a Chongail.

Á Congail.

Ir duabreac rom d̃uircir, a Dubbiao, ar Congal. Ceirb̃ aegaire, ragbur a éioi itir paelaib gan imčoiuicet, agut-ŋa iarum, ar Dubbiao. Doig ni h-orb̃ aegaire cochlud 'gá čeačraib; ni bat coimebaig inll iarmaipac-ru d'Ulltaib; buo fine ar n-a fobail aicme Olloman d̃ari t' éiri; buo laičreč gan lan-gabail arb̃-porč aipečair gača h-Ulltaig ar t' aiel̃. Ác̃t čio compao pe carpaig comairli do troich pe na čiuŋ-ba! Do čomdiglair do čneao, a Chongail, ar Dubbiao; Dena r̃id ručain pe t'aidi, ocur pe h-arb̃-maičib Epenn, ocur imgaib m̃ičorcar na Maipte inat marbčar co maičib Ulao umut in aen maiŋin.

Tainic

¹ *But indeed sleep, &c.*—The present belief among the Irish peasantry is, that at the approach of death by sickness, a man sleeps, but that a woman is awake; b̃ričann an fear 'n a cochlud agur an bean o'a f̃aire f̃ein.

^m *To thee O Congal.*—Á Congail claim

comeirig.—In all old Irish tales mystical assertions, expressed in irregular metre, are generally put into the mouths of Druids. The terms are generally ambiguous and full of mystery; and it is sometimes almost impossible to translate such rhymes as they are made to speak, into intelligible

sleep! come upon every one at the approach of death, and of the pangs of dissolution. And Congal did not awake from this sleep until Dubhdiadh *the druid* had chanted these few words :

“O Congal Claen arise,
 Thy enemies approach thee ;
 The characteristic of an imbecile is the desire of constant lying asleep ;
 Sleep of death is an awful omen ;
 Little energy forebodes the destruction of the coward,
 The desire of the hero and the watchman is early rising ;
 An inciter of valour is a proud and fearless fiery-champion,
 Fervour of blood,—the characteristic of a hero,—
Be to thee O Congal!”

O Congal,” &c.

“Disagreeably hast thou awakened me, O Dubhdiadh,” said Congal. “Thou dost like a shepherd who leaves his flock among wolves without a guard,” said Dubhdiadh. “It is not the business of a shepherd to sleep over his flock: thou art not” a vigilant keeper of a flock to the Ultonians; the race of Ollamh° would be a divided tribe after thee; the great habitation of each Ultonian would, after thee, be a deserted spot; but indeed *to give* advice to a wretch before his death is to talk to a rock.” “Thou hast *sufficiently* avenged thy wounds, O Congal,” said Dubhdiadh, “make an eternal peace with thy foster-father and the arch-chieftains of Erin, and fly from the defeat of Tuesday, on which [*it is foreseen*] thou wilt be slain, and the chiefs of Ulster about thee in one place.”

A

English.

° *Thou art not.*—Ní oar, i. e. *non es*.

° *Race of Ollamh.*—Clíme Ollaman, i. e. the race of Ollamh Fodhla, who was one of the most celebrated of the monarchs

of Ireland, and flourished about the year of the world 3227, according to O’Flaherty’s Chronology.—See Ogygia, Part III. c. 29. This monarch was ancestor of Congal and of all the Clanna Rudhraighe.

Tainic anó rin taem célli cumairc do Chongal, gur canurpar: cia d' ápo-clannaib h-Ir fuairi teirmann ar éiug-ba, ná maiur gan marbad? ocur ip deḡ-riḡ mar Donnall co n-ápo-mairib Erienn uime, o rímtar a po-marbad, ocur ip imcuibdi d'Ulltaib d'á n-airleach do'n cúp-ra, ar Congal. Ocur cidead po triallaino teicéid in taóair pea ocur mo éparḡain ar éiug-ba, mar a taic mo draití 'ḡa deirb-fairtine dam mo éuicim ip in taóair-ra; ni éparḡ trú teicéid; ni tarba éc d'ingabail, uair tri h-uair naó imḡairtér, .i. uair éca, uair ḡene, uair cóimpepta, ar Congal. Cen co h-imḡairtér éc, imḡairtér áḡ, ar Dubdaí, uair ni deir pe dia deirḡ-martra ar daíuib, ocur acberc in laio ri:

Imḡairb áḡ 'r poó imḡéba,
a Chongail Mullairḡ Maca,
mac Aeda, mic Ainmirech,
éuguc i cenn in caía.

In caé rin po toḡbairiu,
ip po fuairair cen laige,
ip rnam mara mór-éonnaig
duic caéugad pe t'aide.

In caé rin po toḡbairiu,
a laic ceirt na da cómlann,
bíó rnam mara mor-éonnaig
duic caéugad pe Donnall.

Donnall

^p *Descendants of Ir.*—D' ápo-clannaib Ir.—The most distinguished of the race of Ir, son of Milesius, were the Clanna Rudhraighe, of whom Congal was at this time the senior representative.

^q *It is profitless to fly from death.*—This is still the prevailing feeling among the illiterate Irish peasantry, who are con-

stantly heard to say "what is to happen must happen: whatever God has foreseen must come to pass exactly as he foresaw it, and man cannot change the manner of it by any exertions of his own." The common saying among them is, "*It was to happen.*"

^r *Mullach Macha.*—Mullairḡ Maca,

A confused gleam of reason then beamed on Congal, and he said, "Which of the great descendants of Ir^p has got protection against final destruction, or will live without being killed? And it is a good king like Domhnall, with the arch-chieftains of Erin about him, *to whom* it belongs *by fate* to have the killing and slaughtering of the Ultonians on this occasion," said Congal. "But though I should attempt to avoid this battle and save myself from final destruction (for my druids are making true predictions to me that I shall fall in this battle), *yet* flight has never saved a wretch; it is profitless to fly from death^a; for there are three periods of time which cannot be avoided, viz., the hour of death, the hour of birth, and the hour of conception," said Congal. "Although death cannot be avoided a battle may be avoided," said Dubhdiadh, "for God does not like that men should be slaughtered;" and he repeated this poem:

"Shun the battle, and it will shun thee,
 O Congal of Mullach Macha';
 The son of Aedh, son of Ainmire,
 Approaches thee at the head of the battle.
In that battle which thou hast raised,
 And which thou hast proclaimed without feebleness;
 It is the *same as* swimming over the mighty-waved sea,
 For thee to contend with thy foster-father.
In that battle which thou hast raised,
 O just hero of the two combats,
 It is the swimming over the mighty-waved sea,
 For thee to contend with Domhnall.

Domhnall

the summit or hill of Macha, i. e. of the hill of Armagh. Congal is called of this place, because it was in the territory of his ancestors, previously to the year of Christ, 332, though not included within the limit of Ulidia, his own principality, which comprised no portion of the present county of Armagh.

Domnall Dúine apo balair,
 rairi ná pluag in domain,
 da n-dearndair orm allmarais,
 do fuicfidir do in conair.

Eol dam ainm in daire pea,
 co ti in brata Daire in latha,
 bío e ainm in muige pea
 mag cuanach Muigi Rata.

Bío Mag raé o'n roth-mal ra,
 mag or aiper in átha,
 Capnn Congail in cnocán ra,
 o nuag co laici in bratha.

Biaio Suibne na gealtugan,
 bío eolach raé gaé n-dingna,
 bío gealtán truaig fann-craibec,
 bío uaéad, ní ba himba.

Imgaib.

ba

¹ *Domhnall of the lofty fort of Balar.*—Domnall dúine apo balair.—*Dun-Balair.* The site of this fort is shown on Tory Island, off the north coast of Donegal, where there is still a vivid recollection of Balar, its founder, who is famed in the bardic history of Ireland as the general of the Fomorians, or sea pirates, in the second battle of Magh-Tuiredh, fought about the year, A. M. 2764, according to O'Flaherty's Chronology.—See Ordnance Map of Tory Island for the exact situation of Dun Balair.

King Domhnall is called of Dun Balair, not because he resided there, but because it belonged to Tirconnell, the principality of his own immediate tribe. The custom

of calling people after such places is very common among the Irish poets, but it leads to confusion, as it is often applied in too vague a manner.

² *Oak-grove.*—Daire, is translated *roboretum* by Adamnan, in his Life of Columba, Lib. 1. c. 2, 20, 49.

³ *Daire in latha,* is in Mac Morissy's copy more correctly Daire na flata, i. e. the oak grove of the prince or king. There is a place of this name near Dungiven, in the county of Derry, anglicised Derrynaflaw, but the name is not now to be found at Moira, where this battle was fought, so that the druid is out in his prophecy.

⁴ *Suibhne shall be a lunatic.*—Biaio

Domhnall of the lofty fort of Balar'

Is nobler than *any* of the host of the world;

If the foreigners would do my bidding

They would for him leave the way.

I know the *future* name which this oak-grove' *shall bear*,

Until the day of judgment—Daire in latha".

The name of this plain shall be

The beautiful Magh Rath.

It shall be called Magh Rath from this prosperous battle,

A plain over the brink of the ford;

This hillock shall be called Carn Congail

From this day till the day of judgment.

Suibhne shall be a lunatic',

He shall be acquainted with every fort",

He shall be a pitiful, weak-hearted maniac;

Few, not many, shall be his attendants.

Shun," &c.

It

Suibhne na gcealcugan.—That is, Suibhne, the son of Colman Cuar, chief of Dal Araidhe.—See Buile Shuibhne, or, "The Madness of Suibhne," a curious romance, generally added to the Battle of Magh Rath, for an account of the rambles, freaks, and eccentricities of this chieftain, after the Battle of Magh Rath, from which he fled panic stricken, in consequence, as it is alleged, of his having received the curse of St. Ronan Finn, abbot of Druim Ineas-glainn, now Drumiskin, in the county of Louth, whom Suibhne had treated with indignity.

"He shall be acquainted with every fort.
—b'io eolach re' c'ac n-oinna, alludes

to Suibhne's constant roving from one place to another. Oingna signifies a fort or any remarkable place, and it appears from the romance just referred to, that Suibhne was almost constantly moving about from one remarkable place to another throughout Ireland; but though he is represented as having visited the most romantic and best-known localities in Ireland, it is strange that he is not made to go to Gleann na n-gealt, in Kerry, whither, at the present day, all madmen are made to repair to be cured of their malady. In Mac Morrissey's copy, however, this line reads, b'io ecclac' re' c'ac n-oinna, i. e. he shall be afraid of every kind of weapon.

ba dímáin do Dubdiad fíir na fíir-gáirí do cáitern ne Congal;
 aét cena po comgairead Ceann con co Congal, .i. gilla cairirí
 do'n triat nollid, gura faideirur h-e d'fíirpugad cleití Conaill
 ocur aird-ginne Eogan, d'fíir in pabadar glair no geimleca itir
 caic dá n-ánpaid n-incomlaino acu. Mar do canad a céet-compairtib
 a cupad, mar deapbétar ap deirguba Conaill:

Ro cindret comairle cupaid,
 Ainnelac, mac Ronain Ruaid,
 Ocur Suibne Míno do'n muig,
 Mac fíir-garta Fearadair:
 Geimel itir cach da cup
 Do Chonaill ocur d' Eogan,
 Co ná ramlad óg na ren
 Dib gémad tenneta teicéid.

Inno uair po cuireb Cenn con ne cupbeilb na torca rin ocur
 po mpa Domnall deirle ap corugad in caeta, ocur po fégurtar
 Domnall dar min-oirbíb in muigi, ocur at conaircum cúigi Cenn
 con, ocur pa aitin adbar a toicill ocur a teétairécta; conad
 aipe rin, po ráin ne trien-feraid in Tuaircir: at ciura cúgaib
 gilla do gillib Congail ocur Cenn con a comainm fein, ocur do
 fedarra adbar a toichill, do cáibpbeo bar tuairpbalairí ocur
 d' fíirpugad bar n-innill, in buo cónglonnta corairgí bar cupaid,
 ocur mun buo ead iat, co na córaigeaó Congal apd-mairí Ulad
 na allmuraic i n-glairib, na i n-geimlecaib. Conad aipe rin, a
 ogu, bar aird-nig Erenn, leagar lib-í earra ocur íctara bar
 n-eirriud, ocur bar n-etgub co tracht-airleannaib bar traiged, d'
 polac

* *Phalanx, &c.*—Cliaé caeta is explained by Peter Connell, in his Dictionary, as a body of men in battle array, and he explains *gíinne*, in the margin of Mac Mo-

rissy's copy, p. 71, by the modern words *neapt no oaingean*, i. e. "strength or bulwark," but the latter word must be understood here as applied to that arrayed di-

It was vain, however, for Dubhdiadh to waste the knowledge of true wisdom on Congal. Cenncon, a faithful servant of the lordly hero Congal, was called, and he despatched him to reconnoitre the phalanx² of the race of Conall, and the great bulwark of the race of Eoghan, *to see* if they had locks or fetters between every two of their fighting soldiers, as had been proposed in the first consultations of their heroes, as is proved in *Dergrubha Chonaill*:

“They came to a stern resolution,
 Airnelach, son of Ronan the Red,
 And Suibhne Meann, on the plain,
 The truly expert son of Feradhach,
 To put a fetter between every two heroes
 Of the races of Conall and Eoghan,
 So that neither young nor old
 To them, though pressed, might suggest flight.”

At the exact time that Cenncon was sent to perform this business, it was that Domhnall turned round to the right to view the array of the battle; and he looked over the smooth surface of the plain, and perceived Cenncon coming towards him, and perceived the cause of his journey and message. Wherefore, he said to the mighty men of the north, “I see approaching you a servant of the servants of Congal, by name Cenncon, and I know that the cause of his journey is to reconnoitre so as to describe you, and to ascertain your battle array; *to see* whether your heroes be linked together with fetters, in order that if they should not be so, Congal may not array the arch-chieftains of Ulster or of the foreigners in locks or fetters. Wherefore, O youths,” said the monarch of Erin, “let down the verges and skirts of

vision of the monarch’s army which consisted of the Cinel Conaill, Cinel Eoghain, and Oirghialla.

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¹ *Dergrubha Chonaill*, was evidently an ancient Irish historical tale, but the Editor is not aware that it is at present extant.

2 A

folac ocur d'fopdibad na faer-geimleč ren-iaraind rnm-cen-
gailt, po h-innaiceb opab. Tógbasó ocur cairbénaíó, cpoitíó
ocur cpiethnaigíó na ílabradu íuaicint, folur-iarinaide, po rufó-
ígeó ar bar n-geimlecaib glan-cúmta, glar-iaraind, ocur cabraíó
tíu epom-gairi borba, buadnairecha, buirpeadaigi, do cúp gráine
ocur geimebečta ír in n-gilla, cumad bréc-čecčairečt bpaflaingi
do bepad d'innraigib Ulaó ocur allmapac. Ro tincad in tecurc
rin ag epen-ferab in Tuaircirt. Ocur ar cinneb cača caingne
dar fopcongar in t-airb-rič opo, co tucíadap tíu epom-gairi,
borb-buadnurača, buirpeadaigi, cor linad, ocur gur luat-meadpad
in gilla do grain ocur do geimečt, d'oille, ocur d'faenneall, ocur
d'foluamain, gor ob ead po cetpaigeirtar čuige, gur gemel glan-
padač, glar-iaraind do peagaim itir cač ba cupaid do Conall
ocur d'Éógan ír in uair rin; ocur po innca uaitib d'innraigib
Ulaó ocur allmapac, co pa innir a aitepc, ocur gur čagair a čecč-
airečt ba píaonairi doib. Ír de rin po čanurcar Congal, ca
h-airm a fuil Dubdaó Drai, a ógu, bar eirium; Sunna, bar
eirim, nim fača fíu faircpi, ge mad deicairi fíu demin duit, ar
Dubdaó, ocur ni čaicep fíu e, ge mad acallaim incletí ba lainn
let. Do [i. dol] duit amlaid, bar eirium d'aircpi ocur d'fírpégad
fer n-Épenn uaim-ri, gur ob do peir do čerta ocur do tuarurc-
bala ar flaitib Fuinib, čoirécat-pa mo cača, ocur fuibigpet mo
počpaide.

Ír

* *Raise and show.*—It seems difficult at first sight to understand the apparently inconsistent orders given by the monarch to his men, to hide their fetters, and at the same time to exhibit and clank the iron chains attached to them. His design probably was to make Congal's messenger believe that although the fetters

were in the hands of the soldiers, and ready for use, yet that they were not actually put on. Another difficulty arises from the spy being represented as *imagining* what was really the fact. Perhaps the writer intended to intimate that the spy, in his terror and panic, reported what his story proved he could not have seen; it

of your battle-coats to your heels to cover and conceal the noble fetters of well-cemented old iron, which have been fastened upon you. Raise and show", shake and rattle the beautiful, bright iron chains which are fastened to your well-formed fetters of blue iron, and give three heavy, fierce, exulting, terrific shouts, to strike terror and dismay into the *heart of* the servant, that he may bring back to the Ultonians and foreigners a false and deceptive message." The mighty men of the north attended to these instructions: when the monarch had finished each of his commands, they gave three heavy, fierce, exulting, and terrific shouts, by which the servant was filled and quickly confused with horror and dismay, and with dread, awe, and panic, so that what he imagined was, that there was a bright fetter of blue iron between every two of the heroes of the races of Conall and Eoghan at that time; and he turned from them towards the Ultonians and the foreigners, and he told his story, and stated *the result of* his message in the presence of them. Then Congal asked, "Where is Dubhdiadh the druid, O youths," he said. "Here," replied the other; "I am not experienced at reconnoitering, even though I should reconnoitre for thee in earnest," said Dubhdiadh; "but I shall not dispute with thee, even though thou shouldst desire *me to obtain* a private interview." "Thou art to go, therefore, from me," said he [Congal] "to view and reconnoitre the men of Erin, and it will be according to thy account and description of the chiefs of the west that I will array my battalions and arrange my forces."

Then

is evident, at least, that Congal was dissatisfied with the report of his first messenger, from his sending Dubhdiadh to reconnoitre a second time, and bring him a more accurate account of the state of the enemies' forces. The whole story is extremely curious; the Editor is not ac-

quainted with any parallel for the singular expedient of chaining the soldiers together, in order to prevent one from flying without the consent of the other; nor is it spoken of as a new device, or one peculiar to Domhnall, for Congal evidently expected it, and was prepared to follow the example.

Ir and rin do deáid Duibdiad co h-Ard na h-imairceirí, conad ar r po feogur tar uada, ocur at conairc in cat-laem cupata, co-
 paitéi ar n-a comeagar, ocur in t-rocraidi fonaire, fap-innillti
 ar n-a fuidiugad; ocur géir b' imda aipect examail, ocur ghrinne
 ghrainemail, ocur faer-rflua g poinemail ar n-a fuidiugad d'fead-
 raib Erenn in aen inad, nír an, ocur nír adair, ocur nír delig-
 ertar aipe, na aigned, na innctind Duibdiad i n-dreim díb rin, áct
 mad ír in tpen-fócruidi tarbda, tor-adarba, tuairceptaig, at
 conairc pe cnear in ard-placha h-uí Ainmirech, pe ghuamdaect
 ocur pe ghrainemlaect na laecriaidi rin leir, con-a n-ghreann-moet-
 raib goiruidi, ocur co n-a clad-mailgib cupad ic polac ocur ic
 foruibad faircrena na feinneo. Ocur din pe h-urghrain ocur pe
 h-anaicentaect leir na leno-brat ligda, leth-fada, lebar-claimac,
 ocur a n-inar n-óir-eagair ar n-a forpilled dar formnais na fir-
 laech. Áct céná po combuaidric cetrada Duibdiad pe forghrain
 a faircrena, ocur po inda uaitib co tinnernach, ocur a éanga
 ar luth, ocur ar luamain, in eadar-poll a aigti, ag turí ocur ic
 triall, ocur ic tinnreduil terta ocur tuarurcbala na tpen-foc-
 raide rin do tabairt; ocur táimic neme co lap longpoiric Ulad
 ocur all-marac, gur in inad ar combeir do cách a compégad ic
 aipneir a aicirc, ocur ic tagra a teéctairecta, ocur po inda ar
 ard-maitib Ulad ocur allmarach, ocur arbert na briathra ra:

Át ciu cat-laem cugaib-íi,
 A Ulltu 'íra allmarcu,
 Oll-cat ágmar epidein,

Cupaid

^a *Ard na h-imairceirí*,—i. e. the hill of the spying or reconnoitering. In Mac Morissy's copy it is written more correctly, *Ard na h-iomfairceirí*.

^b *Excepting only*.—This clearly shows that the battle was written to flatter the pride of the Cinel Conaill.

^c *Wide-folded shirts*.—*Leno-brat* was

Then Dubhdiadh went to Ard na h-imaircsi^a, and from it took his view; and he saw the heroic army arranged and arrayed, and the powerful, well-appointed forces drawn up; and though many a various band, terrible troop, and noble well-looking host of the men of Erin were there stationed together, the observation, mind, or attention of Dubhdiadh did not dwell, fix, or rivet itself upon any battalion of them, excepting only^b upon the mighty, bull-like, puissant northern battalion, which he saw close to the monarch the grandson of Ainmire; *but by these his whole attention was arrested*, on account of the sternness and abhorrent fierceness he observed in their heroes, with their proud-tufted beards, with their warlike prominent eyebrows [*seemingly*] overshadowing and obscuring their vision, and on account of the horror and strangeness presented to him by their glossy, half-length, wide-folded shirts^c, and by their gold-embroidered tunics^d returning over the shoulders of these true heroes. In short, Dubhdiadh's senses became bewildered from viewing them, and he turned from them quickly with horror, with his tongue moving and vibrating in his mouth, assaying, attempting, and designing to give an account and description of that mighty army. And he came on to the middle of the camp of the Ultonians and foreigners to a place where all might conveniently view him, reporting his story and delivering his message, and he turned to the arch-chiefs of the Ultonians and spake these words:

“I have seen a mighty army approaching you,
O Ultonians and foreigners,
It is a mighty, valiant army,

Composed

evidently the linen vest dyed with saffron, with long and open sleeves, often mentioned by English writers as worn by the soldiers of the Irish chieftains.

^d *Tunica*. — Inap is explained by the Latin word *tunica*, in a vocabulary in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, (H. 2. 13.)

Cupaid epoda, cornumac,
 Ppaeëda, ponnmap, portamail,
 Sermach, peitpeë, potecairc,
 Taircrech, triat-lonn, tairpmech;
 Co n-imad arn n-inmilti,
 Pá'n cat ar na corugad.
 Plait péis, peta, poirtmech,
 Rigda, io-garg puitenta,
 Driuch, dreach-deg doir-lebar,
 Dnuir-liat glonn-mear, dnuad-corpca,
 Ar ceart-lár in cata rin,
 'Gá corud, 'Gá córugad,
 'Gá laoiud, 'Gá luamairéct;
 Gaedil uime ar arn-larad,
 Ic foillrugad firiudi,
 Na plata ór a fuilit pean;
 Tricha tailgenn togaui,
 Re h-ua Sedna ag palm-éadul;
 Ní poich intleëct aen duine,
 Ní éic d'innpne aen tengad,
 Gemad tenga tre-poclac,
 Pír-ugdair no olloman,
 Túr na teirt, na tuarpurbail,
 Domnaill co n-a deag-muinnir,
 Re h-imad a n-óg armach,
 Re gaibéige a n-gaircedach,

Re

* *The Gaels.*—Gaedil uime.—Gaedhil is the name for the Irish of the Scotie or Milesian race in general; and the name is here rather incorrectly applied, unless the

writer wished to make the Druid remark that king Domhnall had the Gaedhil ONLY about him, while Congal had people of different nations who would not fight

Composed of brave, defending heroes,
Who are furious, willing, valorous,
 Firm, puissant, docile,
 Aspiring, lordly-strong, invincible,
 With abundance of well-prepared weapons
 Throughout the arrayed battalions.
 A KING fierce, intelligent, steady,
 Royal, furious, resplendent,
 Upright, ruddy-faced, long-palmed,
 Grey-visaged, active, red-cheeked,
 In the centre of that army,
 Steadying it, arraying it.
 Exhorting it, guiding it;
 The Gaels^e around him glittering in arms,
 Showing the legitimacy
 Of the king *under* whom they are;
 Thirty select clerics^f,
 With the descendants of Sedna, singing psalms;
 No intellect of man could conceive,
 Nor could the language of any tongue,
 Even the *three*-worded tongue
 Of a true author or Olave,
 Recount, delineate, or describe
 Domhnall and his good people.
 From the number of their armed youths,
 The terribleness of their champions,

The

with the same enthusiasm for Congal as his own countrymen and blood relations would for king Domhnall.

^f *Clerics.*—*Ṭrícha cailgenn cogairí.*—
 Here the word *cailgenn* is used to denote

a distinguished saint or ecclesiastic. It could in this sense be translated by the Latin *Antistes*, which Colgan generally applies to St. Patrick.

Re leardact a laeçraibé,
 Re meanmnaiḡi a mor-mileb,
 Re triat-luinne a trién-tairec,
 Re miam-ḡrain a noct-claidem,
 Re rcaé-ḡlaine a rciat-luirec,
 Re h-oll-ḡriuch a n-eçraibí,
 Re foçrum a fann-briatach,
 Ic imluab, ic eitealaig,
 Aḡi ionaib a n-árb-çraírec;
 Aen drem dib po derḡnairget,
 Do ḡairadaib ḡlan-ḡóbla,
 Cenel Conaill comraimaig,
 Cined in riḡ po nerctmair,
 'N a timcell 'ḡá ceḡarḡain,
 Ic peidiugab neme-riun,
 Chompair caça cath-laithrec.
 Tiucub duib na tuarurcbail,
 Na tarb-codnac tuairceḡtaç:
 Dub-ḡluag décla, danarba,
 Feḡgaç, foḡrten, fomórba,
 ḡruamda, ḡlann-meap, ḡnuir-leçan,
 Aḡb, aduaçtmaḡ iat-ribe,
 Co n-ḡneann-moçraib ḡoirçibe,
 Ic tuige 'r ic timçellab,
 A n-ḡruab iḡ a n-ḡulban-ḡum;
 A leacan a laec-ḡmeigeb,
 Aḡbal eab a n-ulcan-ḡum,

Impiḡio

^s *Fierce.* — Danarba literally means Dane-like, fierce, and the existence of the word here shows that this story was composed after the arrival of the Danes.

^b *Fomorian-like.* — The Fomorians, according to the Bardic History of Ireland, were African pirates, who settled on the coast of Ireland in the early ages of Irish

The numerousness of their heroes,
 The highmindedness of their great soldiers,
 The lordly vigour of their chieftains,
 The glittering dreadfulness of their exposed swords,
 The brightness of their defending coats of mail,
 The high-spiritedness of their steeds,
 The rustling of their standards
 Streaming and floating
 From the points of their lofty spears.
 One party of them excel
 The hosts of famed Fodhla,
 The valiant Cinel Conaill,
 The tribe of the very puissant king *himself*
 Around him defending him,
 Clearing *the way* before him,
 The obstructions of each battle-field.
 I will give you the description
 Of the bull-like northern chieftains :
 A bold and fierce^c black host,
 Furious, mighty, Fomorian-like^a,
 Grim, agile, broad-faced,
 Tall, terrific are they,
 With tufted beards^d
 Covering and surrounding
 Their cheeks and their mouths,
 Their faces and their heroic chins.
 Great is the length of their beards !

They

history. They are described by the Irish writers as cruel and tyrannical.

^d *With tufted beards.*—See Act 5 Edw.

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IV. [1465], by which the Irish living within the English pale are commanded to shave off the beard above the mouth.

2 B

Impigib ga n-implennaib ;
 Clad-mailgi na cat-miled,
 Forbrioc tap a fabraib ;
 bpoetla na fer fomórda,
 bpuic op-luaig i forpilliud.
 Tap formnaib na fir-lacé rin ;
 Croicenn clum-dub ceatnaiti,
 Indramail caé aen loéair,
 Fil impu ar na forpilleo ;
 Ni léig meo a menmanraib,
 Doib apd-cennur d'aen duine,
 Acé begán ar bratáirri,
 Foraemait d'ua Ainmirec ;
 Gan éir, na gan comertgi,
 Uaéib do éig tigeapna,
 Leat urgraine orporum
 Riap na h-uilib Eogain rea.
 Maing do ria d'á raigib riun,
 Mar a tait fa tigeapna,
 Ina cpó fa chner-bruinne.
 A Ulltu 'r a allmarphu,
 Maing for fil ic fupnaib,
 In aipd-riog fa n-erigic riun,
 A delb-rein ir deirchnaigéi,
 Da caé deilb dar degcumad,
 Mar epca 'n a oll-cuigeaó,
 Samail aigéi h-ui Ainmirech,
 No mar gpein or glan-pennaib,
 Opeac Domnaill ar deig-lapaó,
 Or éind caich atciu.

Rigpaib

They reach to their navels.
 The prominent eyebrows of the warriors
 Grow beyond their eyelashes.
 The garments of these Fomorian men
 Are valuable embroidered garments folded
 Over the shoulders of these true heroes ;
 The black-wooled skin of a sheep
 Is the likeness of every article of dress
 Which is folded about them.
 The greatness of their highmindedness does not permit them
 To give supremacy to any man,
 Except a little, which, through relationship,
 They cede unto the grandson of Ainmire,
 Nor tribute, nor obeisance
 Do they render to the house of a lord.
 They bear *a kind of* half detestation
 To all the race of Eoghan.
 Wo to those who seek them,
 Because they stand by their lord,
 As a rampart to his very breast.
 O Ultonians and foreigners !
 Wo also to those who are awaiting
 The monarch with whom they rise up :
 His aspect is more dignified
 Than any that was well-formed ;
 Like the moon, in his great province
 Is the face of the grandson of Ainmire.
 Or like the sun above the bright stars
 Is the face of Domhnall red-glowing
 Above all who see him.

Ríghaio Ailig oll-ghotac,
 Ard-clann Eogain anraia,
 Sil na Colla compamaic,
 D'aen taib nír na h-Eogancaib,
 Do deir Domnaill doir-lebair,
 Ríghaio Tempach taeb-glaine,
 Cupaio Cruachna clab-uaine
 Do cat-cliu na Conallac;
 Laignig Liamna lenn-mairi,
 Muimnig Muigi mór Fémín,
 Ocur Chaiuil éomdalaig,
 I corrad in cata rin,
 'N-a forimnaib 'n-a iar-cúlaib.
 A amair, a an-urraio,
 Aird-nig Erenn ecraig,
 Oll-erian Gaedel gabairium,
 Re h-érgi, re h-imperain,
 I túr cata at éiu.

At éiu c.

Gura féir ic paelaib do corp, ar Congal, ocur gura failio
 riac ármuige ór do bhuinne, ir ruail nach ar clair cetpata ar
 cupad, ocur nac ar meatair meirneac ar mor-rluag, re teinne na
 cepta

¹ *The loud-voiced.* — The compounded adjective *oll-ghotach*, which was the cognomen of two of the Irish monarchs, is translated *grandivocus* by O'Flaherty, in *Ogygia*, part III. c. 31.

² *Race of puissant Collas.* — Sil na g-Colla, i. e. the men of Oirghiall.

³ *Green-sided Cruachan.* — Cupaio Cruachna, i. e. the inhabitants of the province

of Connaught, so called from Cruachan, now called Rath-Croghan, which was the chief seat of the kings of Connaught.

⁴ *Lagenians of Liamhain.* — Laignig Liamna. — The inhabitants of Leinster were called Laignig Liamna from Dun Liamna, now Dunlavan (in the west of the county of Wicklow), one of the ancient residences of the kings of that province.

The loud-voiced^l princes of Ailech,
 The high descendants of valiant Eoghan,
 The progeny of the puissant Collas^k,
 At the side of the race of Eoghan,
 On the right of the long-palmed Domhnall;
 The princes of the fair-sided Tara,
And the heroes of the green-sided Cruachan^l,
 With the famed battalion of the Conallians,
 The Lagenians of Liamhain^m of beautiful shirts,
 The Momonians of the great plain of Feiminⁿ,
 And of Cashel of assemblies,
 To support that battalion,
 In squadrons, in rear-troops.
 The soldiers, the adherents
 Of the monarch of noble Erin,—
 The third part and upwards of the Gaels have come
 To rise up to contend, in the van of the army
 Which I have seen.

I have seen," &c.

"May thy body be a feast to wolves^o," said Congal, "and may the ravenous ravens rejoice over thy breast; thou hast almost subdued the senses of our heroes, and destroyed the courage of our great troops by the strength of the account and description which thou hast

ⁿ *Plain of Feimin.*—Muirge Feimin, of the plain of Feimen, a celebrated plain in the south-east of the county of Tipperary, extending from Knockgraffon southwards to the River Suir, and from Cahir to Sliabh na m-bán, and to the boundary of the territory of the Hy-Eirc, in the south of ancient Ossory.

^o *May thy body be a feast to wolves.*—

Ḡura féir ic faelaib oo cópp, is modernized in Mac Morissy's copy gur ab féir ag faelcónaib oo cópp. The word faela is certainly here used to mean wolves, though the most usual name for the wolf is faelcu or macrúpe. The last native wolf seen in Ireland was killed on a mountain in the county of Kerry in the year 1725.

τερτα ocur na tuaruycbala tucair ar apb-maitib Erenn, pá n-airb-riḡ. Áct aen ní, ní h-inépeti d'ánpadaib rreṭa riabairéi, reaóránaáa, raeb-ḡorcetail na rean-ḡruad, ar na riabrad do cié-nellaib na cṡine; ocur ní mó ir medair rṡe fuigḡi ocur ḡormolta pára, ḡorbannaáa, ḡorḡáiblige na ríled, ar n-a m-buidecúr do bṡeṭaib tṡoma, tairberṡaáa tṡiaṭ ḡaáa tṡe ina ṡeacaid. Áct atá ní cṡena, ar Congal, tuingim-rí páma' éṡeíḡib tṡeṡṡair, mun-bad ḡell ar eimec dam-ra ḡraí no deigḡer ḡana do diṡh na do diṡennad, ir do luaṡ-imcár mo lama-ra tṡeṡadur do tṡom-nella tṡug-baṡ-ra ḡeriu pa cumaircḡur na caṡa ceṡṡarḡa pa ar a celi.

Leic arṡ, ale, na h-imṡaid inanaircṡer, ar Dubḡiad, muna ṡi mo ṡaṡ laṡi tṡug-ba-ra leat ir in laṡṡea rea i fuilim, a Chongail, a cṡingib, ni muirbṡerṡu mṡiri na neac eli ḡar eir airḡiḡ na h-aen-Mairṡi rṡa; uairi ni biarṡ aḡ bagur na aḡ buadṡairi ar biḡbaid u'n Mairṡ-laiṡi rṡa amac co bṡuinne bṡaṡa. Áct aen ní, ciḡ adbal aḡaib-rí mo ṡṡṡa-ra, ocur mo tuaruycbala ar tṡiaṡ buḡneṡ Taillṡen, ocur ar ḡléri n-ḡaenel, baigim-rí bṡiaṡar, ḡura bec do tṡian a tṡṡṡa ocur a tuaruycbala i tanac-ra ḡur tṡarṡa. Ar nṡ ḡurail aingel d' aingḡib niam-ṡoillṡi naem-nime do tṡṡem a tṡṡṡa ocur a tuaruycbala, .i. ṡe ṡuiṡṡib a riḡ, ocur ṡe h-arm-ḡrain a n-airṡcṡ, ocur ṡe meṡriḡ a miled, ṡe comṡnuṡ a cupad, ṡe ḡruamḡaṡṡ a n-ḡaircṡaṡ, ṡe lonn-bṡuṡ a laṡṡairidi, ṡe tairm-ḡriṡ a tṡṡen-ḡer, ṡe h-olbḡaṡṡ a n-amur, ṡe h-aṡṡaime a n-ogḡad; ocur ḡin ḡor ṡe fuacḡaṡṡ a ḡerḡi, ṡe ḡrain-ḡairṡi a n-ḡaiṡṡenn, ṡe baḡb-ḡlur a m-bṡiaṡach, ṡe loinnṡiḡe a luirṡcṡ, ṡe clar-leṡi a cloidem, ocur ṡe leaṡḡaṡṡ a lebaṡ-ṡiaṡ, ṡe rár-ḡluidi a ṡleaḡ ar n-a

^p *The wavering, &c.*—These look very like the words of a modern sceptic, but there can be no question about the genuineness of the passage.

^q *I swear by my characteristics of a lord,*—i. e. by my courage, my valour, my munificence, and other attributes inseparable from the true character of a chieftain.

hast given of the arch-chiefs of Erin under their monarch. But there is one thing, the wavering^p, imaginative, wandering, false-instructing words of the old druids are not to be believed by warriors, they having grown obsolete by the showery clouds of antiquity; neither are the empty, vain, and fabulous words and panegyrics of poets cheering, which are remunerated by the heavy awards and rich rewards of the chieftains of each country in which they come. But be this as it may," said Congal, "I swear by my characteristics of a lord^q, that, were it not a violation of protection^r in me to put to death or behead a druid or good man of poetry, it would be from the rapid motion of my hand *that* thy heavy clouds of final dissolution would be brought, before these two armies should come in collision with each other."

"Lay aside these unbecoming sayings," said Dubhdiadh; "unless my day of final dissolution shall be brought about by thee this day, in which I exist, O Congal, O hero, thou shalt not kill me or any other person after the slaughter of this one Tuesday; for thou shalt not threaten or menace an enemy from this Tuesday forth till the day of judgment. But there is one thing, though strong ye deem my account and description of the populous prince of Tailltenn and of the choicest of the Gaels, I pledge my word that I have as yet given but a little of the third *part* of the description and account of them, for it would require an angel of the bright angels of sacred heaven to give an account and description of them, in consequence of the magnificence of the king, the terror of the arms of the chieftains, the courage of the soldiers, the emulation of the heroes, the grimness of the champions, the force of the warriors, the fiery vigour of the mighty men, the dexterity of the soldiers, and activity of the youths; and in consequence, moreover, of the stubbornness of their anger, the horribleness of viewing their javelins, the closeness of their standards,

^r *Protection*, *einech* in this sense undoubtedly means protection or guarantee.

n-a ruibugad i lamaib a laeé-mileb. Áét aen ní, no pad feidm, ocur no pad urmaiú ariú no éir-laié fuirec ne fégab a féinneb, ocur ne taibred a tuarurcbala, .i. ne breim, ocur ne bolgra-baig a cupab, ocur a cat-mileab, ne rrenghail ocur réirfebaig a rinnreir, ocur a ren-daine ic rancugab da bar raigib ri; ne rruthlad ocur rriangair a n-ghaig n-ghléra, n-ghlomar-éennra, i g-comlué ra cairpéchaib, i corpuib ocur ic cobnugab in cata impu ar cach aird, gur ob réta, rceimneéa maié na mileb, ne méo a pedma, ic porugub na fear, ocur ic cobnugab in cata, uair ni cennra a cupaib ne cobnugab, ocur ir tocraó ne triaéaib
a

¹ *Coats of mail.*—Re loimpe a luipech.—The Irish word luipech, which is supposed to be derived from the Latin *lorica*, certainly signifies a coat of mail, but antiquarians do not admit that the Irish had the use of mail armour so early as the period at which this battle was fought. Giraldus Cambrensis, who described the battle dress of the Irish in the twelfth century, says that they went *naked* to battle :—"Preterea *nudi et inermes* ad bella procedunt. Habent enim arma pro onere. Inermes vero dimicare pro audaciâ reputant et honore." (Dist. III. c. 10.) And O'Neill's bard, Mac Namee, in describing the havoc made of the Irish in the battle of Down, fought in the year 1260, states that the English were in one mass of *iron*, while the Irish were dressed in satin shirts only.

Leatpóm do éuabap'ra éat
Goill acor Gaéiúil Teimrac:
Léinte caem-ppóill ap éloinn Chuinn,
Goill in n-aen-époim rapuinn.

"Unequal they entered the battle,
The Galls and the Gaels of Tara :
Fair satin shirts on the race of Conn,
The Galls in one mass of iron."

If, therefore, luipech means *mail armour*, it would go to prove that this account of the battle of *Magh Rath* was composed after the Irish had adopted the custom of wearing armour from the English, unless it be proved that the ancient Irish themselves had the use of it, and left it off afterwards in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; but this will hardly be admitted. The utmost that can be argued in favour of the antiquity of the tale is, that it might possibly have been composed after the Danes had introduced the use of armour into Ireland. But it looks on the other hand very extraordinary, that there is no mention made of the battle-axe throughout this whole story, a fact which would seem to prove that it was written before the time of Cambrensis, when almost every Irishman carried a

standards, the shining of their coats of mail', the hollow broadness of their swords', the great size of their shields, the closeness of their lances' fixed in the hands of their warlike soldiers. But there is one thing, it would be the business and improvement of a chief or true hero to remain to view their heroes and conceive their description: the shouts and acclamations of their heroes and warriors, the panting and aspirations of their seniors and old men coveting to attack you; the snorting and neighing of their caparisoned, bridle-tamed steeds bounding under chariots", supporting and commanding the battle around them in every direction; so that the chiefs of the soldiers are fatigued and excited from the greatness of their exertion in restraining the men and commanding the battle, for their

battle-axe, as they do walking-sticks at present. "*De antiquâ imo iniquâ consuetudine, semper in manu quasi pro baculo securim bajulant, &c. &c., a securibus nulla securitas.*" (Dist. III. c. 21).

¹ *The hollow broadness of their swords.*—Re clap-let; a g-cloibem.—In Mac Morris's copy pe glan-catneimci; a g-cloibem, i. e. by the bright glittering of their swords. It is remarkable that Giraldus Cambrensis makes no mention of the sword among the military weapons used by the Irish in his time, though it appears from all their own histories, annals and historical tales, that they had the cloibem, i. e. *gladius* or sword, from the earliest dawn of their history; and indeed the omission of the sword in Giraldus's description of Irish military weapons is sufficient to throw great doubts on his accuracy; but it may have happened that

in his time the Irish generally used the battle-axe instead of the sword. Spenser describes the Irish sword as a hand broad in his own time, and seems to consider that such was derived from the Scythians, from whom he believed the Irish to be descended.

² *Lances.*—The Sleag was certainly the lance or spear.

³ *Charioteers.*—Fa cairpdechais.—This seems to refer to war chariots. The word cairpdech is thus used in the Leabhar Breac, fol. 49, b, a, which puts its meaning beyond any doubt:—*Clépech tra la forano in ceruguo cucartan do cloino lppael, co tanic ina n-oeagair pe cet CAIRPDECH cengailte, ocup percat mile troigrech.*

This is a reference to Exodus, xiv. 7:—"And he took six hundred chosen chariots and all the chariots of Egypt," &c.

α ταιμερε, ocur ip tegurca togaib; tigeppair, ocur ip fuigli
 féigi, pellpamanda, forbarcaá fileo forcar ocur impuirger iat
 gan bar n-innpaigib dar in. réib, ocur dar in riasaib po orpaigret
 bar n-arpd-naim, ocur bar n-ollomaim adopaib; uair ip aen peim
 ocur aen pun acu uile d'a bar n-innpaigib. Ro gabratar mor-caá
 Muman mian ocur molbétai; pe mandar na mor-gliab; porpat
 lainnecha, lán-olbda laigin co laéair d'a luat-éornam; porpat
 epoda, comdicra cupaid Cpuacna ocur Connaét pe compegra in
 caá; porpat broela, borb-ráitech, dpeag-pluag doinne, ocur
 laechraib Liathopoma; porpat rúntaig, rantaá, rapaigéig borb-
 pluag bagach, biartaig, búirpedac, corcpac, epoda, cairdemail,
 laeáda, luat-garg leomaná, ferrac, porpnamda, ferronta,
 cennar, cetravach, comceneoil Conaill, ocur Eogain, ocur Air-
 giall d'aen-taib ocur d'aen-laim ocur d'aen-aigned d'a bar n-inn-
 paigib. Uair ip uaitib nach élaítep, ocur ip triú naé ciaáar,
 ocur ip tairrib naé togaítep, ocur din, ip do combaig, ocur do
 comerzi na cupad rin éugaib-ri naé paicri duine do'n díne deide-
 naé ra Ulaó ocur allmapac a éuat ina a tpeab-aicme. Ocur din
 cio ibri do paemat anad ar ráim-comavaib rída, ni h-anfad in
 t-arpd-plaie h-ua h-Ainmirec, ar n-erzi a ferrzi, ocur ar corugad a
 caá, ocur o'n uair po iadpat ocur po imcompaigret ime a n-aen-
 peét comeagar cupad Conaill ocur Eogain ocur Airgiall, ní mó
 na do mibuilib aird-ri; na n-uil ticfad tairmepe tpeatáin ocur
 tpen-puaáair

✓ ** The Bregian hosts of the Boyne.*—Dpeag-
 pluag dóinne.—The River Boyne flows
 through the plain of Bregia, which was
 the ancient name of a very extensive tract
 of Meath, containing five cantreds or ba-
 ronies. Dr. O'Connor says that the Boyne
 formed one of its boundaries, but this does

not agree with the ancient authorities,
 which place the plain of Magh bolg [Moy-
 bolgue] in it, and describe it as extending
 beyond Kells, and as far as the River
 Casan.

Dpeag-pluag dóinne, would also bear
 the translation "the fine troops of the

their heroes are not mild to be commanded, and it is a torment to chieftains to be restrained; so that it is the judicious instructions of lords, and the keen, philosophic, and instructive words of the poets that restrain and keep them from attacking you, contrary to the directions and rules made by your saints and ollaves between you; for they have all the same bent and determination to attack you. The great battalions of Munster have got a desire and thirst for fight at the onset of the great conflict. The Lagenians are spear-armed and fully prepared to maintain the field. The heroes of Cruachain and Connaught are brave and diligent to attend the battle. The Bregian hosts of the Boyne^v and the heroes of Liathdruim^w are furious and menacing. The races of Conall and Eoghain and the Oirghialls are active, covetous, oppressive, furious, menacing, vulneriferous, uproarious, exulting, brave, united, heroic, rapidly-fierce, lion-like, angry, grim, dog-like, slaughtering, vigilant with one accord one hand and one mind to attack you. For from them no escape can be made, through them no passage can be forced, and over them no force will prevail. And of the union and rising up together of these heroes to you *it will come to pass* that not a man of this last tribe of the Ultonians and foreigners will *ever* see his country or tribe. And moreover, even though ye should now consent to come to the tranquil conditions of peace, the monarch the grandson of Ainmire would not, his anger being raised and his army being arrayed for battle. And since the combined bodies of the heroes of the races of Conall and Eoghan and the Oirghialls have closed and united

Boyne," but this is evidently not the meaning intended.

^v *Heroes of Liathdruim.*—*Λαεχπαυό Λαεχπομα.*—Liathdruim was one of the ancient names of Tara Hill, which is con-

stantly used by the poets, to the no small confusion of their readers. For some account of the five ancient names of Tara see Petrie's *History and Antiquities of Tara Hill*, p. 106.

tñen-puaáair in apd-pláta h-úi Ainnipeá d'á bar n-innraigib; gur
 ob ruail nap éarm-éirénaig in ealam fa a éraigéib, ar n-bergao
 a dñechi, ocur ar n-éiríao a gñuaidi, ár puaimniugao a puirc,
 ocur ar noctao a niam-claidim, ar rcland-bercuao a rceit, ar
 tocbaíl ocur ar cairbenao a cñairigi cenn-gñirme caáa of a áno
 i cepte-airbi, fa'n rpoll-mergi ruaiáno, rrebnairbi, raeb-áorach,
 rólur-pennach, senta, fa rrethait, ocur fa ruibigic rleáa ocur
 brataáa breac-mergeada airb-rigraibí Eñenn uile, ar caá airb,
 ocur adbert na bñathra fa:

Ro cógbait na mergi éar,
 ag ríú Domnall ír in tñer;
 níc bia luag fuicfi do cenn,
 at ciu caé puáó ríú Eñenn.
 Átair uile na romul,
 ní geib eagla na omun,
 ír ead luataigir in caé
 ferú mor ar h-ua Ainnerech.
 Méo a claidim garta gñirm,
 fuil na deir décla ðuipno!
 ír méo a rceit moir re air,
 meo a laigne leatán-glair.
 Fuilit tñi neoil of a áno,
 nell gorm, nell dub, nell fíno;
 nell gorm in gairced glain gle,
 ír nell fíno na fírinde.

Fuil

* *Consecrated satin banner.*—Senta.—
 The cathach of St. Columbkille which was
 a consecrated reliquary of that saint, was
 generally carried in the banner of the

Cinel Conaill; it was kept by Magroarty,
 who resided at Ballymagroarty, near the
 town of Donegal.

† *The size of his broad green spear.*—

united around him together, nothing less than the miraculous interposition of the King of all will stay the fury and mighty onslaught of the monarch the grandson of Ainmire against you. And the earth had almost quaked under his feet when his face reddened, his cheek blushed, and his eye sparkled, when he exposed his bright sword, when he adjusted his shield, and raised and exhibited to view his blue-headed warlike lance over his head aloft, under the variegated, streaming, floating, star-bright, consecrated satin banner*, about which are placed and ranged the lances and variegated banners of all the chieftains of Erin from every quarter;" and he [Dubhdiadh] said these words:

"The standards have been raised to the south;
 There is Domhnall in the battle;
 Thou wilt not be joyous, thou shalt leave thy head;
 Thou shalt see the mighty army of the men of Erin.
 They are all alike;
 They take neither fear nor dread;
 What hastens the battle
 Is the great anger of the grandson of Ainmire.
 Oh the size of the expert blue sword
 Which is in his valiant right hand!
 And the size of his great shield beside it!
 The size of his broad green spear!
 There are three clouds over his head,
 A blue cloud, a black cloud, a white cloud;
 The blue cloud of fine bright valour,
 And the white cloud of truth.

There

Meo a laighe leacán-glair. Gratianus province of Leinster took the name of
 Lucius renders the word laighe, *lancea*, in *Laighen* from the introduction of the
 his translation of Keating. It is stated broad-headed lance by Labhra Loingsech,
 in the Bardic History of Ireland that the one of its kings, from Gaul.

Fuil úr a cínó ag eighnig,
caillec lom, luaé ag leimnig
ór eannaib a.n-arm ra ríat,
úr i in Moppígu mong-liath.

In pob ar a fuirmenn rin,
'r ar a toirnenn a traignib
ne méo po ruaimnig a porc,
úr dia ma'r tualaing a córc.

Comairli uaim dom' aéair,
bíó comairli co fácaín,
ne muidum na caé co n-ghain,
a dá ríogib do éogbail.

Ro τ.

Ír ann rin po mib ocur po muaidnig lapla aingie, eiríocap Ulaó,
.i. Congal Claen, comairli duaidbrech, demnacda, d'irpugad eng-
numa Ulaó ocur allmarach, do éiríugad a tapaid ocur a trien-
lamaig ne cup in caéa, naé gabad ocur nach geimligeo dib acé
cach drem ar a n-airíocad élanig, ne túr ocur ne tertiugad a
tapaid. Conad e airíag uapararí rúm orpo ne pnomad caéa
fír Ullaig ocur d'fír allmaríac, .i. caé fa reach uatib da innraí-
gib i ríim-írtad a puibí. Ocur fír fuaéda, forghianna co n-dub-
ga n-duaidbrech co cínó coiblige cruaid lethair in aicill forghaim
úr in dapa h-urraínó, ocur fírglonn formeir fír-ghianóa fearcón úr
in

* *Morrígu.*—Moppígu.—She was one of
the wives of the Dagda, and the goddess
of battle among the Tuatha de Dananns,
the colony which preceded the Scoti or
Milesians in their occupation of Ireland.—
See Battle of Magh Tuiredh, preserved
in the MS. H. 2. 16. in the Library of
Trinity College, Dublin, where this Mor-

rigu is introduced as the Bellona of this
people. In the Book of Leinster, fol. 16,
b, b, she is called the daughter of Erumas,
and said to have resided in the *Sighi* or
fairy palaces.

* *The Earl of Ulster.*—lapla Ulaó.—
Is *Iarla* an original Irish word? Was it
borrowed from the Danes? or are we to

*"Lapla Ulaó is an original Irish word
and is found in the Book of Leinster
fol. 16, b, b. It is the daughter of Erumas
and is said to have resided in the Sighi
or fairy palaces."
—The Book of Leinster, B. 16, fol. 16, b.*

There is over his head shrieking
 A lean, nimble hag, hovering
 Over the points of their weapons and shields :
 She is the grey-haired Morrighu^a.
 On the sod on which he treads,
 On which he lays down his foot,
 So much has his eye sparkled,
 None but God can repress him.
 An advice from me to my father,
 It is an advice with reason,
 Before the battalions of terror shall be viewed,
 To raise his two hands.

The standards," &c.

It was then the malicious and merciless Earl of Ulster^a, Congal Claen, ruminated and imagined a dire, demoniacal design, to test the valour of the Ultonians and foreigners, to try their activity and might at arms before engaging in the battle, in order that none of them might be restrained or fettered excepting only such as would betray *an inclination to flight*^b on their courage being tested and tried ; so that the scheme he adopted for proving every true [*i. e. truly courageous*] Ultonian, and for testing every foreigner was this : each of them respectively was to go in to him to the principal apartment in his tent, while a fierce and terrible man, with a black, fearful javelin^c with a hard leather head, in readiness to thrust, was at the one jamb [*of the*

come to the conclusion that this battle was written after the time of John De Courcey, who was the first person who obtained the title of Earl of Ulster?

^b *Flight*.—*Cl n a n-aipeoáir.*—The text is here corrected from Mac Morissy's copy.

^c *Fearful javelin*.—*Fep co n-oué-ga,* &c.—For a similar anecdote, see *Leabhar Gabhala* of the O'Clery's, an extract from which is printed in the Preface to *Circuit of Muirchertach Mac Neill*, published by the Irish Archæological Society, p. 21.

in uirraind ele co n-uirnarc imrimar iairnairi air, i 'cengal do éuaill coéaigti congala. Duacaill bpoḡda ic a bpoḡtao 'na cept-papad ne cópc no cómpreac̃t. Ocur in tan ticpad Ulltach no allmapac̃ ecupru, in inab a aimrig̃ti, do bered fer in cruad-gai éind cóidlige forḡum air ip in dapa h-uirraind. Ocur clipẽd in cú éuigi fa'n cuma cetna ar in uirraind eli. Da filled no da for-prátaige in fer rin ne fuirmed fir in forḡaim ocur ne cruad-gloim in chon ic ur-noctad a fiacal ocur ic comoplugud a c̃appait d'á t̃ercad no da t̃ren-gabail, do gab̃ta ocur do geimlig̃tea gan fuir̃ec̃ e-ferin. Ocur din in t̃é ticpad gan poracht gan nobidḡad a h-uathbáraib in airig rin do leig̃tea gan lan-gabail. Ác̃t c̃ena ip e nob airig̃id urḡabala ne cãc ip in clear rin Dubdiao Driai. Doig ip ne p̃rim-feri na puir̃li no forḡad ocur no h-urḡabad eferin ic dola ar dibla ocur ar dapãc̃t, ne huat̃bar in forḡaim rin. Cio t̃rac̃t ni f̃rĩt fer gan élang no gan et̃iplen co fer̃domun f̃uilẽc̃, mac Imomain, uairi ba h-erein con ciuchail in coin t̃re n-a c̃appait gur compoiñd a c̃raidi d'á claidem cãta 'n-a cliab, ocur no ort fer in forḡaim ip in uirraind eli 'na cept-deḡaid gan caigill d'á c̃rairig̃. Ocur tucur̃tar t̃ri beimenna biḡbanair gan caigill gan cómp̃éḡad, do Congal, do digail a doḡear̃t ar Ulltaib ocur ar allmapãcaib, gur marbur̃tar ḡáir ḡann, mac Elair Deir̃ḡ, a d̃alta, ba fiad̃nairi do. Ocur a ḡilla ḡair ḡann, mac Sluag̃ain, ceann cumdaig ocur commor̃ta cãca claiden-dala le Congal. Im gabair lapla Ulad fer̃domun ic tabair̃t in t̃rẽr bemi, gur benur̃tar in claidem ina cept inab, gur compaiñd in imdaig n-air-ẽc̃air

^d *He was taken and fettered, &c.*—i. e. those whose courage did not stand the test of passing into the tent between the armed warrior and the hound, were tied together so as to render it impossible for them to

fly from the battle except by general consent. Those whose courage had stood the ordeal, were not so secured, because it was taken for granted that they would "byde the brunt to the death."

the door of the tent], and a furious, swift, fearful hound at the other jamb, having on him a thick iron collar, fastened to a strong pole to keep him; a sturdy boy beside him to check or incite him; and when an Ultonian or foreigner would come between them, where he could be attacked, the man with the hard leather-headed javelin was to make a thrust at him from the one jamb, and the hound, in like manner, to spring at him from the other jamb. Should the man *to be chosen* turn back, or take fright at the attack of the man with the spear, or at the dire onset of the hound exposing his teeth and extending his jaws to tear or hold him fast, he was taken and fettered without delay^a. But he who had passed the horrors of this mode of trial, without panic or dismay, was left without restraint. The first man, whose courage was, before all, tested by this plan, was Dubhdiadh, the Druid, for he was stopped and taken on the highest pole [*ridge-pole*] of the tent, having been panic stricken and driven to distraction at the horror of this attack [*i. e. mode of trial*]. In short there was not found a man who did not shrink and fly from it except Ferdoman the Bloody, the son of Imoman^c, but he cleft the hound's jaws and cut in twain its heart in its breast with his warlike sword, and immediately after slew without mercy with his lance the man *who was armed* with the spear at the other jamb, and *rushing into the tent* he made three hostile blows at Congal without mercy or consideration, to revenge upon him his evil treatment of the Ultonians and foreigners, *in exposing them to the ignominy of such a trial*, and slew Gair Gann, the son of Elar Derg, his foster-son, in his presence, and his servant, Gair Gann, the son of Slugan, the latter the chief contriver and plotter of every evil counsel for Congal. The Earl of Ulster avoided Ferdoman in giving the third blow, and the sword struck the

^a *Ferdoman the Bloody, the son of Imoman*—No account of this warrior has been found in any other document.

eóair treampi co talmáin. Ácét éna baigim co fí, ar Fepdomun, naé degnair do durbad dibeirgi, ná d'fopbad fí-uile iúir. Éinnh ocur Albain naé aithpind-pea oré, muna imgaibéa in maó. Ácét ata ní buó aircíri and, .i. ergi gur tparra, ocur na caéa do éorugub, ocur na cupaid do comghepaché, ocur na h-ard-maíéi d'acallaim, ina na h-amainrí ocur na h-ainighe tucair ar Ulltaib ocur ar allmaracáib do'n tuaié-beiré gur tparra; uairí ír feidm or na fedmannáib, ocur ír fopneart naé fulaingter fláich-rig Fear Fúinó, .i. Domnall, mac Aeda, do neir-freagha anuig. Rot fíá buaid, a caé-míú, ar Congal, ír peéct Ruobairgeach rín, ocur ír fregha fí Ulltaig; ácét éna, bíó a fí agut-ra, góia fep fpertail cacha pláta, éoiré ocur éurraigéi caéa cupad Congal, ar feidm ocur ar engnum, ar díchur, ocur ar deghnim. Ocur na luaidetar in laio pea, ocur laiberéar ír in laio, ar ír earbadac d'a h-ardair :

Érig, a Chongail Macá,
 ocur coraig na caéa,
 moir in feidm fá tucair laim,
 rig mar Domnall do dínghail.
 Cíó ma buó feidm móir dom' laim,
 duine ar domun do dínghail,
 me bodein am ronn caéa,
 am ua rig ír po-pláta.

Finnáid

^f *King of the men of the West.*—Fláich-rig fep Fúinó,—i. e. of Ireland. Keating writes that Cricoch na bh-Fuineadhach, i. e. the county of the Hesperides, was the second name which was given to Ireland.

^g *Success.*—Rot fíá, a verb defective, is explained *take or receive* by Peter Con-

nell; it occurs very frequently in the Book of Lismore, but it is not explained in any printed Irish dictionary.

^h *The argument of which is defective.*—This shows that the writer of the story had ancient MS. authorities for his facts.

ⁱ *Macha.*—Macha,—i. e. of Armagh.

the exact spot where he had sat, and cut the royal couch in twain to the earth. "I swear truly," said Ferdoman, "that hadst thou not slunk from thy place, thou hast not stirred up any disloyalty, nor effected any certain evil between Erin and Alba, which I would not have revenged upon thee. It would have been more becoming in thee to have risen up at once, arrayed the battalions, roused the warriors, and harangued the arch-chiefs, than to have annoyed and insulted the Ultonians and foreigners by such a perverse deed as thou hast just committed; but it is an exertion beyond exertions, and an effort of which we are incapable, to respond to the king of the men of the West^f, Domhnall, son of Aedh, this day." "Mayest thou have success^g, O warrior," said Congal, "*what thou hast said* is the paroxysm of a Rudrician and the reply of a true Ultonian. But be it known to thee that Congal, for his vigour and dexterity, for his descent and goodly deeds, is a man to respond to any chieftain, and to withstand and repress any hero." And this poem was spoken, the argument to which is defective^h:

Ferdoman.—"Arise, O Congal of Macha¹,
And array the battalions,
Great *is* the task thou hast taken in hand,
To resist a king like Domhnall."

Congal. — "Why should it be a great exertion for my hand
To resist any man in the world,
I myself being a bulwark of battle,
The grandson of a king¹ and a great prince.

Know

¹*Grandson of a king*—*Am ua rí.*— See pedigree of Congal, at the end of this volume, from which it appears that he had just claims to all that he boasts of, for he was descended from the most heroic and most ancient line of princes that Irish

history has preserved, being the senior representative of the ancient kings of Emania or Ulster, whose history is more certain than that of any other line of princes preserved in the Irish annals, not excepting even the monarchs of the Hy-Niall race.

Finnabair ga lín ata amuig,
 mac Aeda, aipir-nig Ailig?
 in fíor neac uair go re,
 in lia doib ina dúinne?

Coic cuigib, a deir ar ann,
 atait in iataib Epeann,
 atait uile, aiblib gal,
 i t'agair aet aen coiced.

Ata imarcarib eli,
 it cenn, a uí Ruðraige,
 at coiced fein, feidm n-gialla,
 Conall, Eogan, Aingialla.

Albanair uaim na n-agair,
 ir cuig ced a Cinn Magair,
 dingebar cuigeb mád cat,
 cetiu meic aillí Eachach.

M'amair ocur mo deorair,
 i n-airib Ceneoil Eogair,
 me bodein ocur mo gail,
 i n-agair Ceneoil Conall.

D' Ullairib nó ar fupail lem,
 a ceirpe comlin 'na cenn,
 nír lia laec cpuair do cleet gail,
 d' fepair Epeann na d' Ullairib.

Ro

* *Arch-king of Ailech*.—Aipir-nig Ailig.
 —After the desertion of Tara, in the
 year 563, the monarchs of the northern
 Hy-Niall generally resided at Ailech, near
 Derry.

¹ *Descendants of Rudhraige*.—A uí
 Ruðraige.—See Congal's pedigree at the

end of this volume.

^m *Cenn Maghair*.—Cinn Magair is still
 so called, by those who speak the Irish
 language, but anglicised Kinnaweir; it is
 situated near Mulroy Lough, in the baro-
 ny of Kilmacrenan, and in the county
 of Donegal. In the paper copy Dun Mo-

Know ye the number that are yonder
 With the son of Aedh, arch-king of Ailech^k?
 Does any among you know as yet,
 Whether they are more numerous than we?"

Ferdoman.—"The five provinces, it is said,
 That are in the land of Erin,
 Are all,—great their valour,—
 Against thee, except one province.
 There is another odds
 Against thee, O descendant of Rudhraighe^l,
 In thine own province,—a capturing force,—
 The races of Conall and Eoghan, and the Airghialla."

Congal. — "The Albanachs from me against them,
 And five hundred from Cenn Maghair^m,
 The four beauteous sons of Eochaidh
 Will repel one province in the battle.

My soldiers and my exiles
 Against the race of Eoghan,
 Myself and my foreigners
 Against the race of Conall.

For the Ultonians I would not deem *it* too much
To have four times their number against them,
 There were not more heroesⁿ, accustomed to battle,
 Of the men of *all* Erin than of the Ultonians.

Of

naib is read instead of *Cinn Maghair*, which seems the correct reading, for *Cinn Maghair* did not at this period belong to Congal, and he could not, therefore, have any forces out of it.

ⁿ *There were not more heroes*,—i. e. Ul-

ster alone produced as many heroes as all the other provinces put together. The modern Ultonians, of the ancient Irish or Milesian race, still retain this conceit of their own valour, as the Editor has had frequent opportunities of learning.

Ro pad dib Concobar coir,
 no pad dib Fergur, mac Róig,
 no pad dib do Choin na cleir,
 no pad dib Conall comber.

Ro pad dib do clainn Rora,
 reit meic ailli Fergura;
 no pad dib Celcáir na cat,
 ocup Laegairne buadach.

Ro pad dib luét Conaille,
 Aengur, mac Laime Tairbe;
 no pad dib, ba ferride in dal,
 Naíri ocup Ainli ir Ardan.

Ro

° *Conchobhar*.—Concobar,—i. e. Conchobar Mac Nessa, king of Ulster, under whom the heroes of the Red Branch flourished, as has been already often remarked.

° *Fergus, the son of Roigh*.—Fergur, mac Roigh.—He was king of Ulster immediately preceding Conchobhar Mac Nessa, by whom, and whose myrmidons, he was dethroned. He afterwards passed into Connaught, where he was received by Olill, King of Connaught, and his queen, the celebrated heroine Meave, who assisted him to wage a war on the Ultonians, which was carried on for the space of seven, or, according to others, ten years.

° *Cu of the feats*.—Cu na-g-clear,—i. e. Cu of the feats of arms. This was Cu Chulainn, one of the heroes of the Red Branch, who is called by the annalist Tighernach, "*fortissimus heros Scotorum*."

° *Conall*.—Conall,—i. e. Conall Cearnach, another of the heroes of the Red

Branch; for an account of whom see Keating, in his account of the heroes of Ulster who flourished under Conchobhar Mac Nessa.

° *Race of Ross*.—Clann Rora,—i. e. the descendants of Ross the Red, the son of Rudhraighe, ancestor of the Clanna Rudhraighe.

° *Sons of Fergus*.—Seit meic Fergura.—The seven sons of Fergus, that is, of Fergus Mac Roigh, mentioned above in Note °. These were Eoghan, Feartlachtgha, Corc, surnamed Feardoid, Ciar, surnamed Moghtaeth, Cormac, surnamed Moghdoid, Uada Ethlenn, and Corbolonn. Meave, Queen of Connaught, was the mother of three of these sons, viz., of Conmac, Ciar, and Corc, who became the founders of many powerful families.—See Ogygia, Part III. c. 46, and Mac Firbis's Genealogies of the Clanna Rudhraighe.

° *Celchar of the battles*.—Celcáir na

Of them was Conchobhar^o the Just;
 Of them was Fergus, the son of Roigh^p;
 Of them was Cu^q of the Feats;
 Of them was Conall^r the Comely.
 Of them were the race of Ross^s,
 The seven beauteous sons of Fergus^t;
 Of them were Celtchar of the Battles^u,
 And Laeghaire the Victorious^v.
 Of them too were the people of Conaille,
 Aengus, son of Lamh Gaibhe^w,
 Of them were,—of whom they would boast,—
 Naisi, Ainli, and Ardan^x.

Of

g-cait.—He was one of the heroes of the Red Branch, and gave name to Dun Celtchair, a very large fort near the town of Downpatrick.—See Book of Leinster, fol. 66, a, where he is called of Leth glais, another ancient name for Downpatrick. Colgan writes of this hero as follows, in a note to the life of St. Bridget by Animossus, Lib. ii. c. 99: "Hic Keltcharius numeratur in vetustis nostris hystoriis inter præcipuos Hiberniæ heroes seu athletas, floruitque tempore Concavarii regis Ultoniæ circa ipsa Filii Dei Incarnati tempora."—*Trias Thaum.* p. 566, n. 52.

^v *Laeghaire the Victorious.*—Lægaire óuibé.—He was also one of the heroes of the Red Branch: for an account of his death see Keating. The chiefs of Ulster, before the expulsion of Fergus Mac Roigh into Connaught by his successor, Conchobhar Mac Nessa, are set down in a vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, (H.

2. 16. p. 759.) as follows: "These were the twelve chiefs of Ulster: Fergus Mac Roich, Conall Cearnach, Laeghaire the Victorious, Cuchullin, Eoghan Mac Durthacht, Celtchair Mac Uitechair, Blai Brughaidh, Dubhthach Dael Uladh, Ailill Milteng, Conall Anglonach, Muinremur Mac Gerrinn, and Cethern Mac Fintain." They were all at the Banquet of Bricrinn, of which a curious account is given in the Book of Leinster.

^w *Aengus, son of Lamh Gaibhe.*—Aengus Mac Láime Gaibhe.—He was also one of the heroes of the Red Branch. Some account of him and his father, Lamh Gaibhe, or Lamh Gabhaidh, is preserved in the Book of Leinster, fol. 73, a, a.

^x *Naisi, Ainli, and Ardan.*—These were the three sons of Uisnech, celebrated in the Romantic Tale called *Oighidh Clainne Uisnech*, published by Theophilus O'Flanagan, in the Transactions of the Gaelic

Handwritten signature

Ro paduib-rin ar robain,
 clann cupata Concobair;
 ro paduib Dubthaic ó'n Linn,
 i'r Munremair, mac Derriginn.
 Ro paduib, ar in Táin cair,
 Cetheirn fíh-gar, mac Finnchain,
 ro pauib, ba garb a n-gail,
 Amairgin rigda Reochaid.
 Ro pauib,—ba ferruib rin,—
 Fergur, mac Leide luchmair;
 ro pauib, a n-am na cpeach,
 Cathbad, Congal Clairingnech.

Ro

Society of Dublin. They were cousins-german to the heroes Cuchullin and Connall Cearnach, as O'Flanagan shows in that work, pp. 24, 25.

¹ *Sons of Conchobhar*.—Clann cupata Concoðair.—i. e. the sons of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster, who distinguished themselves in the war between Connaught and Ulster, in the first century, for an account of which see Keating's History of Ireland, and the celebrated historical tale called Tain Bo Cuailgne, of which the most ancient copy now extant is preserved in Leabhar na h-Uidhre, in the possession of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, College-green, Dublin.

O'Flaherty says (Ogygia, Part III. c. 48) that this Conchobhar had above twenty-one sons whose descendants are extinct these many centuries. The nine most distinguished of his sons are enumerated in the following ancient verses, cited by

Duald Mac Firbis in his pedigrees of the Clanna Rudhraighe :

Maicne Concoðair an rig,
 La h-Ultaib ba mór a m-brí;
 Ní riáct a n-úra ná g-caí
 Nonðar robur ráruigfead;
 Cormac ba Conluingir lainn,
 Fionncaid, Glaisne, i'r Conaing,
 Maine, Cumsgraidh ba caomh gúe,
 Fiacha, Fiachna, Furbuidhe.

"The sons of Conchobhar, the king,
 Among the Ultonians great was their vigor;
 There never engaged in skirmish or battle
 Nine who would subdue them :
 Cormac Conluingis, the strong,
 Fionnchadh, Glaisne, Conaing,
 Maine, Cumsgraidh of fair countenance,
 Fiacha, Fiachna, Furbuidhe."

² *Dubhthach*.—He was the celebrated Dubhthach Dael Uladh, one of Conchobhar Mac Nessa's household.—It is stated in

Of them were likewise
 The heroic sons of Conchobhar⁷;
 Of them was Dubhthach of Linn⁸
 And Munremar, son of Gerrginn^a.
 Of them, on the Tain [*cattle-spoil*] in the east,
 The truly fierce Cethern, son of Finntan^b,
 Of them was,—fierce his fight,—
 The regal Amairgin Reochaidh^c.
 Of them was,—better for it,—
 Fergus, son of Leide the supple^d;
 Of them were, in times of plunders,
 Cathbhaidh^e and Congal Clairingnech^f.

Of

the Book of Lecan that the lands which were his patrimonial inheritance were, soon after his death, inundated by Lough Neagh.

^a *Munremar, son of Gerrginn.*—Munremar mac Ġerrginn.—He was one of the heroic chiefs of Ulster in the time of Fergus.—See Book of Leinster, fol. 73, *a, a*, where he is mentioned as one of the heroes who claimed the honour of dissecting the famous pig called Muc Dathó, at a banquet given by a Leinster chieftain.

^b *Cethern, son of Finntan.*—Ceċern mac Finnċain.—He was one of the twelve chiefs of Ulster in the time of Fergus.—See Book of Leinster, fol. 62, *a*, where he is called the grandson of Niall Niamhglonnach of Dun da bheann. He is a very conspicuous character in the very ancient Irish Tale called *Tain Bo Cuailgne*, which is the *Tain* referred to in the text. East in this line alludes to Cuailgne, in the east

of Ireland, in the present county of Louth.

^c *Amairgin Reochaidh.*—Amairgin Reoċaid.—He was the father of the famous hero Conall Cearnach. His pedigree is given by Mac Firis, thus:—"Amergin, son of Cas, son of Fachtna, son of Caipe, son of Cionga, son of Rudhraighe, the ancestor of the Clanna Rudhraighe."

^d *Fergus, son of Leide the supple.*—Fergus mac Leide.—He was the grandson of the monarch Rudhraighe, from whom all the Clanna Rudhraighe are sprung. In the Book of Leinster, fol. 65, *b, b*, he is said to have resided at *Line*, now Moylinny, in the county of Antrim.

^e *Cathbhadh.*—Caċbad.—i. e. Cathbhadh, the druid, the father of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster.

^f *Congal Clairingnech* was the son of Rudhraighe Mor, and monarch of Ireland, according to O'Flaherty's chronology, about the year of the world 3889.

Ro pa dib—angbaid in paind,—
 Irial Uaiéne, mac Conaill.
 ro pa dib ac cup na tper
 Cumrcraid, Cormac Conloingep.
 Ulaib at imba a n-écta,
 a corcap ní coidécta
 gur in Maipc nī for Muig Rat,
 ó do cuipret a céd cat.
 Cat Ratáin, cat Ruip na nīg,
 cat Duma beinne ip blab fīp,
 cat Eoair, ann ro h-anab,
 cat fīrbeoda Fīnd-éarab.
 Cat nár b' urupa d'áirim,
 ic gairig, ic iolgarigccí,
 cat ro bñip ap pluag Semne,
 bñiplec Muig Muirtemne.

Ceo

^s *Irial Uaithne, the son of Conall.*—Irial Uaiéne mac Conaill.—He was generally called Irial Glunmhar, and was King of Emania, or Ulster, for forty years, and the son of Conall Cearnach, one of the most distinguished of the heroes of the Red Branch.—See list of the Kings of Emania, as taken from the Annals of Tighernach, in Note C, at the end of this volume.

^b *Cumhscraidh.*—Cumrcraid.—He was one of the sons of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster, and succeeded his father as King of Ulster for three years. He was slain in the year of Christ 37, according to the Annals of Tighernach.

ⁱ *Cormac Conloinges.*—He was the son of Conchobhar Mac Nessa.

^j *Battle of Rathain.*—Cat Ratáin.—

No account of this battle has yet been discovered. There are many places of the name in Ireland, of which the most celebrated is Rathain, now Rahen, in the King's County, about five miles westwards of Tullamore, where Saint Carthach of Lismore erected a church.

^k *Battle of Ros na Righ.*—Cat Ruip na nīg,—now Rosnaree, situated on the River Boyne, near the village of Slane, in the county of East Meath. This battle was fought in the beginning of the first century, between Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster, and Cairbre Nia Fear, King of Tara, with his brother, Finn File, King of Leinster. The Lagenians were defeated. A short account of this battle is preserved in the Book of Leinster, fol. 140.

Of them was,—valiant his deeds,—
 Irial Uaithne^a, the son of Conall,
 Of them in fighting the battles
 Were Cumhscraidh^b and Cormac Conloinges^c.
 The Ultonians! many their exploits,
 Their triumphs were incomparable
 To this Tuesday on Magh Rath,
 Since they fought their first battle.
 The battle of Rathain^d, the battle of Ros na righ^e,
 The battle of Dumha Beinne^f of true fame,
 The battle of Edar^g, where a delay was made,
 The truly vigorous battle of Finn-charadh^h.
 A battle which was not easy to be described,
 From shouts,—from various shouts,—
 The battle in which the host of Semneⁱ were defeated,—
 The Breach of Magh Muirtheimhne^j.

The

^a *Dumha Beinne*,—i. e. the mound of Beinne. No account of this battle has yet been discovered, nor is the situation of the place certain. It is probable that this *Dumha*, or mound, was on the plain of Magh Mucroimhe, near Athenry, in the county of Galway, where Beinne, the son of the King of Britain, was slain, A. D. 240.—See Ogygia, Part III. c. 67.

^g *Edar*, now the Hill of Howth, in the county of Dublin, not far from the city. The battle here referred to,—which was caused by the exorbitant demands of the poet Athairne from the people of Leinster,—was fought between the poet Athairne, Conall Cearnach, and Cethern Mac Fintain, on the Ultonian side, and Mesgeghra,

King of Leinster, and his people, on the other. In this battle Mesgeghra was slain by Conall Cearnach, who took out his brains and carried them off as a trophy.

^h *Battle of Finn-charadh*.—Cac Finncharadh.—No account of this battle has yet been discovered, nor has the situation of the place been determined.

ⁱ *The host of Seimne*.—Sluaḡ Seimne.—The Ultonians were sometimes so called by the bards, from the plain of Seimne, situated in the territory of Dal Araidhe, in the south of the present county of Antrim.—See Colgan, Trias Thaum. p. 183, n. 219.

^j *The Breach of Magh Muirtheimhne*.—Driplech Muige Muirtheimhne.—Magh

John D. Kelly

Ceo la Concobair o'á clainn,
 ocup Dearg-ruathar Conaill,
 o'á tuc Fergur,—forum n-gle,—
 na tri maela Míde.

Secht cata im Cathair Conrui,
 argain Fiamain, mic Forui
 argain Conrui ba buan blas,
 im secht macaib d'éc Deaðað.

Ní deirnnrat ban-écta ban,
 rluag Emma, aisecht Ulað.
 áct mað Mugain, tria na seisic,
 ocup Meob uaetmar, oirdeisc.

Noça

Muirthemhne was the ancient name of an extensive plain near Dundalk, in the present county of Louth. The battle here referred to was made the subject of an Irish romantic tale, of which there are many paper copies in the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, College-green, Dublin.

¹ *Conchobhar gave his sons.* — Ceo la Concobair o'á clainn.—The story is unknown to the Editor.

² *Derg-ruathar Chonaill.*—Dearg-ruathar Chonaill.—This is also the name of an historical Irish Tale.

³ *Maels of Meath.*—O'á o-tuc Fergur.—The story to which this line refers is unknown to the Editor.

⁴ *Cathair Conrui.*—Cathair Conrui,—i. e. the caher or stone fort of Curoi Mac Dairi. It is still the name of a mountain situated about six miles S. W. of the town

of Tralee, in Kerry, near which Curoi Mac Daire, King of the Deagads of Munster, resided in the first century. In the Book of Leinster, fol. 16, a, b, it is stated that the *Lecht* or monument of Curoi is on Sliabh Mis mountain, of which Caherconree is the highest part. The Carn or sepulchral pile of Curoi is still to be seen on the north-east shoulder of this mountain, but his *caher*, or fort, has been long since destroyed, though Dr. Smith, in his History of Kerry, states, that the ruins of it were to be seen on the summit of the mountain in his own time. But this is utterly erroneous, for the feature called *Caher Conree* on this mountain is a natural ledge of rocks.

⁵ *Fiamuin, son of Forui.* — Fiamuin mac Forui.—It is stated in the Book of Leinster, fol. 16, a, b, that Fiamuin Mac Forui was slain at *Dun Binne*. He was

The first day which Conchobhar gave his sons^a,
 And the Derg-ruathar Chonaill^r,
 In which Fergus,—noble the deed,—
 Took the three Maels of Meath^r.
 Seven battles around Cathair Conrui^t,
 The plundering of Fiamuin, son of Forui^u,
 The plundering of Curoi,—lasting the renown,—
 With the seventeen sons of Deaghaidh.
 The host of Emania^r, the host of Ulster,
 Have never committed woman-slaughter^w,
 Excepting *in the case of* Mughain, through love of her,
 And the hateful, *but* illustrious Medhbh.

I

^a Munster chieftain, and cotemporary with Curoi Mac Dairi. The Death of Fiamuin formed a distinct story. — See Preface.

^r *The host of Emania.*—Sluaḡ Eamna. —The ancient Ultonians, or Clanna Rudhraighe, are so called from Eamhain Macha, the name of their ancient palace, which was built by Cimbaeth 309 years before the birth of Christ, and in which thirty-one of their kings resided. It was destroyed by the three Collas, the grandsons of King Cairbre Liffeachair, in the year 332, according to the Annals of Tighernach.—See list of the kings of Emania at the end of this volume. Its remains are still to be seen about two miles to the west of the town of Armagh, and are, without a single exception, the most extensive of their kind in all Ireland. It was described by Colgan as follows in 1647: “Emania propé

Ardmacham, nunc fossis latis, vestigiis murorum eminentibus et ruderibus pristinum redolens splendorem.”—*Trias Thaum.* p. 6.—See Note on Craobh Ruadh, *infra*.

^w *Have never committed woman-slaughter.* —Ní ceapnair ban-écta ban,—i. e. they never disgraced themselves by slaying women, except in two instances, namely, in that of Mughain, who was slain through jealousy, and that of Meave, Queen of Connaught, who was slain by her own sister's son, Furbuidhe, son of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, on Inis Cloithrinn, in Lough Ree, in the Shannon, to take revenge for the assistance she had rendered Fergus, the dethroned king of Ulster, in making war on the latter province.—See Ordnance Map of Inis Cloghran, which is now vulgarly called Quaker's Island, on which the spot where Meave was slain is shown, under the name of *Inad marbhtha Medhbha*.

Noða n-áipem cén bam beo,
 eéta Ulað o Áth Éo.
 Á níg Line ip leþða ním,
 a bile Éinna epíg.

Epíg a.

Ip and rin po épgtar oll-caéa Ulað ocur allmapac co fiéda, faebpac, forniata, co h-arpma, ocur co h-aigbeil, ocur co anpata, pa comapicab cpoda comepgi cat-bpoptudaéa Congail; acé gép bo h-áipem, ocur gep ba ainmniugav aen pluaig ocur aen-ploinnti ap na dá cáth-foépaioi cpoda, coméenna Congail, poppat paine ploinnti ocur ruioigéi cac deg-pluaig, ocur cac deg-foépaioi dib-rein ap cumupc ocur ap comepgi caic pa leit ap laéaii do'n laec-paio rin; ocur ba h-amlaio po epíg cac paep-pluaig poceneoil acu ip in uaii rin, .i. cac aipeéc ap n-iaub pa'n aipb-pig, ocur cac tinol ap timpugub pa tigeppa. Ocur ba h-eav inpo deieþip ocur deiliugav caéa deg-pocpaioi dib-rein, itip innell ocur opubub, itip coptub ocur copugav caéa, poppat pain ocur poppat ruaié-nio ó cách ap éeana. Pál-aipbi pepþa, pip-bluitb, faebap-cle-rach Ppangc ap n-epgi co h-anpata ina cath ocur ina cpó cobpaio, éengailti, clié-þopcauac cupav, pa Ðaiphpe, mac n-Ðopinmaip, flait rein flebmap, formata, pat-comaiplec Ppangc. Ocur din gép b'é pluaig púntach, paeb-épaidec, ppoll-meipgec, pluaig-aipbertach Saxan, ba h-ágmap a n-innell, ina corpéaii élaidem ocur coip-p-leaig, ocur cat-rciaé, pa Ðapb, mac Rogaipb, nig rein réit-pech, poimemil, pluaig-neip-línmap Saxan. Ocur gép b'é pluaig boipþavaé, bágach, bpeac-meipgeac, bápc-libepnac þpetan, ba peipmac a peol rein ina m-bpóin bpocla, biaptaigi, þpetnair-beplaiig,

* *O prop of Emania arise.* — The last quatrain of this poem is very different in the paper copy, thus :

Áp iao, vap linn, ip leþða neim,
 Á ócca Éinna epíg.

¹ *The mighty battalions.* The Irish word

I could not enumerate, during my life,
 The exploits of the Ultonians of Ath eo.
 O king of *Line* of most distinguished valour,
 O prop of Emania arise¹!

Arise," &c.

Then rose the mighty battalions' of the Ultonians and foreigners vehemently, fiercely, valiantly, well-armed, terribly and heroically at the warlike and exciting exhortations of Congal; and though the two brave and powerful armies of Congal were reckoned and called one army and one name, still various were the surnames and situations of each goodly host and goodly band, when each party of these warriors rose up separately on the plain; and the manner in which each of the freeborn noble hosts rose out at that time was this, viz., each host closed round its arch-king, and each company collected around its lord. And this was the difference and distinction between every goodly host of them both as regards order and arrangement, position and array of battle. The manly, close, sword-dexterous battalion of the Franks was different and distinguishable from all the rest, having risen out vigorously in a strong, close, and sheltering battalion and phalanx of champions under Dairbre, the son of Dornmhar², the festive, heroic, and wisely-counselling king of the Franks. And as to the active, vain-hearted, satin-bannered, heroic-deeded host of the Saxons, warlike was their array with a border of swords, spears, and shields, under Garbh, the son of Rogarbh, the robust prosperous king of Saxonland, of the strong and numerous forces. As to the warlike, speckled-ensigned, ship-possessing army of Britain, firm was their

array

cúe, which makes cúe in the plural, generally signifies a battle, but it is sometimes used, as in the present instance, to denote a battalion.

¹ *Dairbre, son of Dornmhar.*—This must

be considered a fictitious character, unless we suppose Dairbre to have been the Irish mode of writing Dagobert, which was the name of the king of France when this battle was fought.

laig, bodba, fa Conan Rod, mac Eachach Aingcúr, ocur fa Dael, mac Caili Druad, co n-a trí macaib, .i. Réir, ocur Ul ocur Artur a n-anmanna. Ocur din fóir, gér b'é óg-íluag arnaid-eéclinnmar, etriocar Alban, ba íár-bluit a ruoiugad ina carraig ceirt, com-airb fa ceitri macaib Eachach buibí, .i. Aed in Eppio Uaine, ocur Suibne, ocur Congal Menb, ocur Domnall brec. Ocur gér b'iat forne ocur forglaiú ferrda, fomórdá, ferrg-duaibreá Fínnagall, ba h-allmarbá a n-innell sein ina leibenn luirech, ocur laigne, ocur lebar-íciath, fá Elair n-Derú, mac n-Dolair, flait fortamail Fínnagall.

Oll clanna h-Ír, mic Míleó, imraithe agaid ar a aitél-sein : ba mín cáe meirneé, ocur ba élaít cáe teagar, ocur ba cennair cáe corugad, in aitéragad innill ocur écoirc adaigthe meirbá, miodachbá, mor-daingen na míleó boi acu fa Congal Claen, mac Scannlain Sciaé-leáin, airb-núg uaibreé, allata, oll-cetradach Ulad. Gér digrair cach drem, ocur ger crodá, cáe cined, ocur ger éomlan cáe corugad, no b'iat núg-clanna rédi, ruiténda, núg-breáca Rúdraigi ba h-uilliu, ocur ba h-aiblí, ocur ba h-orcarbá innell ; ba cruinne, ocur ba crodá, ocur ba cobraigí corugad ; ba dluití, ocur ba daingne, ocur ba duaibrige deiried ; ba glaine, ocur ba geri, ocur ba gaibéige cimra, ocur cat-imlí ; ba tperi, ocur ba tige, ocur ba tpenleéi torac ; ba roinnme, ocur ba rantaigi raigí ; ba h-ellma, ocur ba h-ércuibí aigneo, d'iarraio na h-imperna, ocur do éornuní na cath-laíteé ne clannaib Cuind.

Cinnir Congal ceim ó na curadaib co Cnocán in éorcar, .i. áit ar craiden, ocur ar commaídeao corcar Congail, ar na fódbugad d' fepaib Epenn. Ocur no inda a agaid ar Ulltaib ocur ar allmarácaib, ocur no gab ga íadnugad orro a dígenn bodein ne
Domnall

* *Race of Conn*,—i. e. the descendants of Conn of the Hundred Battles.

^b *The hillock of the victory*.—Cnocán an éorcar.—This name is now forgotten.

array in a fiery, wounding, Welsh-speaking, majestic phalanx, under Conan Rod, the son of Eochaidh Aingces, and under Dael, the son of Caili Druadh, with his three sons named Reis, Ul, and Arthur. And as to the cruel, many-deeded, merciless young host of Alba, very close was their array as an even high rock, under the four sons of Eochaidh Buidhe, viz., Aedh of the Green Dress, Suibhne, Congal Menn, and Domhnall Brec. And as to the select, manly, Fomorian-like, and furious troops of the Finngalls, strange was their array in a bulwark of armour, spears, and broad shields, under Elar Derg, the son of Dolar, the valiant prince of Fingall.

After these we have to mention the great descendants of Ir, the son of Milesius : tame was all courage, feeble all defence, and mild every array, in comparison with the fiery, lively, great, and firm array and complexion of the heroes who were around Congal Claen, the son of Scannlan of the Broad Shield, the haughty, famous, intelligent arch-king of Ulster. *And* though every party was diligent, though every tribe was brave, though every equipment was complete, the ready, resplendent, kingly-judging descendants of Rudhraighe were the most numerous, prodigious, and warlike in array ; the most compact, the bravest, and the stoutest in order ; the closest, the firmest, and the most terrible in the rear ; the straightest, the sharpest, and the most terrible in the borders and flanks ; the strongest, the closest, and the mightiest in the front ; the most successful and sanguine in the onset, and the most prepared and most ardent-minded in longing for the conflict, to maintain the field against the race of Conn'.

Congal stepped aside from the warriors to Cnocan an choscair [the hillock of the slaughter*], *afterwards so called as being* the place where Congal was overcome and triumphed over, when he was cut down by the men of Erin ; and he turned his face upon the Ultonians and foreigners, and proceeded to prove to them the cause of his own

Domnall ocur a domun do dicennad do clannaib Cuind Cébcataig,
 .i. a cuiged gan cennac ar na deadbail pe deirb-fine, munn ron
 ocur Emain gan Ulltaic, ocur in Craeb Ruad gan cupaid do clann-
 aib Ruoraigi 'ga ro-aicreib, ocur arbert na briatara pa ann :

Cinnid céim co cath-laéair,
 a Ulltu 'ra allmarcu,
 Inoraigio h-ua h-Ainmirec,
 aicid air bar n-eranóir.
 Diglaig mo deirc n-bíradairc,
 ar in triat rom' tógaib-rea,
 beirid baire brat-meirid,
 i combail na cuigedac.
 Coirnaid Cuiged Concobair,
 pe clannaib Cuind Ceb-cataig,

o

* *Craebh Ruadh*.—Craeb Ruad, now anglicised Creeveroe; it is the name of a townland situated near the River Callan, not far from Emania.—See Stuart's History of Armagh, p. 578, and Ordnance Map of the Parish of Armagh, on which the site of the house of Creeveroe is shown.

Keating writes as follows of the palace of Emania, as it stood in the time of Conchobhar Mac Nessa and the heroes of the Red Branch :

“Cui h-árua iomorra do bí a n-Eamain Macla pe linn Choncobair, map ata, óroinbearg, Craobdearg agus Craobruad. 'S an céad éig do bíoir a n-óair; &c. An oara teach, u'a n-joir-éide Craobdearg, i' ann bíoir na h-airm agus na reoie uairle a g-coiméad;

agus an tpeas éad u'a n-joiréide an Chraobruad, i' ann do riadéide e féin map aon le líon a laórad.”

Thus translated by Dr. John Lynch, author of *Cambrensis Eversus*, in his MS. translation of Keating :—“Palatium Conchauri, Emon Machanum, in tria potissimum domicilia distributum erat, Nosocomium, Hibernicè Bronbhearg, armamentarium vulgò Craobhdhearg, quod arma et instrumentum omne bellicum, et pretiosa quæque Conchauri cimelia continebat; et triclinium, Craobhruadh appellatum, ubi cibus illi suisque apponebantur, quod etiam ejus hospitalis locus erat et exedra, cum sibi solitus esset advenas quosque excipere.”


These great houses, so famous in story as

enmity to Domhnall, and how his kingdom was decapitated by the descendants of Conn, that is, how his province was left without a chief or head, having been taken from his tribe, which left Emania without an Ultonian, and Craebh Ruadh* without a champion of the race of Rudhraighe; and he said these words there:

“Advance to the battle field,
 Ye Ultonians and foreigners,
 Attack the grandson of Ainmire,
 Revenge on him your insults.
 Revenge ye my sightless eye
 On the prince who fostered me;
 Make a watchful, quick advance
 Towards the provincialists.
 Contest the province of Conchobar [i. e. of *Ulster*]
 With the sons of Hundred-battled Conn,

From

the chief seats of the ancient Ultonians, or Clanna Rudhraighe, in tan ba po fip Ull-taig, when in the meridian of their power, splendor, and glory, were in ruins in the time of Congal, and the land on which they were situated was in the possession of the Clann Colla, or Oirghialla. Dr. Stuart, in his *History of Armagh*, speaks of the ruins of these buildings as follows:—“The site of these ancient edifices can be nearly ascertained at this present hour. There is a townland near the Navan hill, westward of Armagh, which is yet denominated *Creeve Roe*, a name which, in the English letters, expresses the very sound designated in the Irish characters by the word *Craobh Ruadh*, the red branch. The uniform tradition of the country assigns this

district of Creeve Roe as the place where the regal palace stood. There is, in an adjoining townland called Trea, a mound which, in form, resembles this figure , and is universally denominated the *King's Stables*. Navan hill” [which is the Anglicised form of cnoc na h-Eamhna] “overlooks the lands of Craobh Ruadh. Around this hill, betwixt the base and the summit, there is an elliptical fosse and moat, including eleven acres, three roods, and thirty-six perches, by which two smaller circular mounds or forts (one on the top and the other on the side of the hill) are environed. These had probably been formed to protect the royal residence.”—*Hist. Armagh*, pp. 578, 579.

o Inbher cáio caem Colpéa,
 co Drobais, co Dubroctair.
 ba h-erin bar ren cuigeo,
 i remiur bar rið-rinnher,
 in tan ba ró fir Ulltaig,
 bar crich-rí nír cuimrigeo,
 ne febur bar fir-laec-rí.
 Cormac, Curchaid, Concobar,
 Fergur, Fiaça, Furbaidi,
 Finncaó, Fergna, Feradach,
 Eogan, Errgi, Amairgin.
 Menn, Maine, ocu Munremar,
 Laigrec Lannmár, Laegaire,
 Celctair, Conall Compamaç,
 Ceitheirn, Cú na caem-çarða,
 Caebaid, Congal Clairingneç.
 Nairí co n-a neit-bhairib,
 Aengur, Irial orðmigi,
 Aig rin óne deð-Ulltaç,
 náir ríned, nar rapaigeo,
 Ruðraigeç pé peime-ríun.
 Maing po ðein ó'n garraidi rin,
 ðan aicirí a n-engnuma;

maing

^b *To Drobhaois and Dubhrothair.*—O Inbher Colpéa, co Drobais, co Dubroctair.—According to all the old Irish MSS. which treat of the ancient division of the provinces, Ulster comprised the entire of the present county of Louth, and extended from Inbher Colptha, the mouth of the Boyne, to the River Drobhaois,

which flows out of Lough Melvin and falls into the Bay of Donegal at Bundrowia. The river here called *Dubh-Rothair*, i. e. the Black River, is that now called the River *Dubh*, or Duff, which falls into the same bay at Bunduff. Keating says,

“Coige Ulaó o Drobaoir go h-Inbher Colpéa.”—Or as Lynch renders it, “A

From the fair beauteous Inbher Colptha
 To Drobhaois and Dubhrothair^b.
 That was *the extent* of your old province
 In the time of your royal ancestors,
 When the Ultonians were truly great,
 Your country was not circumscribed,
 From the goodness of your true heroes.
 Cormac, Cuscraidh, Conchobhar^c,
 Fergus, Fiacha, Furbaidhi,
 Finnochadh, Fergna, Feradhach,
 Eoghan, Errgi, Amairgin.
 Menn, Maine, and Muinremar,
 Laighsech, Lannmhor, Laeghaire,
 Celtchair, Victorious Conall,
 Cethern, Cu na Cerda [i. e. *Cuchullin*]
 Cathbhaidh, Congal Clairingnech.
 Naisi with his mighty brothers,
 Aengus, Irial the renowned,
 There is a race of good Ultonians,
 Who were not prostrated, who were not overcome,
 Nor was one Rudrician in their time.
 Alas for him who sprung from that tribe,
 Who does not imitate their valour,

Alas

Droviss ad fluvium Colptam extenditur"
 [sc. Ultonia].

^c *Cormac, Cuscraidh, Conchobhar*.—Cormac, Cuscraidh, Conchobhar, &c.—This is a recapitulation of the names of the most distinguished heroes of Ulster. The most of them were cotemporary with Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster,

and the champions of the Red Branch, and have been all mentioned in former notes except Laigsech Lannmor. He was the son of the hero Conall Cearnach, already often referred to, and ancestor of the seven septs of Laoighis or Leix, in the Queen's County, of whom the O'Mores were the most distinguished.

maireg dán' cñich a cuiced-run,
 gan tuailngiur a túrpaéda;
 gan com-tríall a córnuma,
 fñi h-eaéctannaib aitrebur.

Cñic comlan gac cuicedach,
 gan upebaid acu-rum;
 ca cñich aét ar cuiced-ne
 naé h-e a níg 'r a paémar triat,
 opdaigiur co h-aentadaé,
 tairig ar a tren tuataib,
 brugaib ar a bailebaid,
 mic níg ag a no cóimeb,
 aét rinne, ril Ruopraige?

Conall, Eogan, Aingialla,
 forgabrat ar feranna,
 gur ob éucu in caéneim-rí,
 d'a cur ar ar cind.

CINDID C. C.

Ar comerigi na caé-buiden cñoda, cengailti, corp-décla cupan
 rin, no innraigeadar in da oll-bronig aibbli, uairpeáda, er-iona,
 agairtecha, anpalaid. rin, co h-aen maigin ina rreth-foronib roinn-
 me, rocla, rluag-mera, ruibigti, rap-laec; ocur ina n-ginnedaib
 géra, gaibteá, gneim-décla, gnod-neimneá gairced; ocur ina
 laemannaib leéna, luat-mera, leimeá, leban-cornumaé laitrech;
 ocur ina n-ólúmaib dicra, deppaigti, deimeá, doppeagaréa
 debéa; ocur ina cipebaid cruaidi, cobnaéda, craídemla, cner-
 cengailti caéa, co tri delg-dainguib dluidi, digrairi, dreach-duaib-
 péca, diéoglaigi debéa, ar n-a n-deilb, ocur ar n-a n-dingí, ocur
 ar n-a n-dlúgaid, mar ir ferri, ocur ir ágmaire, ocur ir aigbéli
 no féadaar a n-airig, ocur a n-ard-maíti do leith for leith, .i.

cleth

Alas for him whose country is their province,
 Not to aspire to their valiant deeds,
 Not to attempt its defence
 Against the adventurers who inhabit it.
 The entire country of all the provincialists
 They possess without diminution;
 What country is there but our province
 In which its own king and prosperous chief
 Does not appoint with full consent
 Toparchs over mighty territories,
And brughaidhs [i. e. farmers] over townlands,
 The sons of kings guarding them,
 But ours of the race of Rudhraighe?
 The races of Conall and Eoghan, and the Airghialla,
 Have seized on our lands,
 And against them we make this onset,
 To drive them from over us.

Advance," &c.

These brave, connected, impetuous bands of heroes having risen out, marched to one place in two prodigious, proud, compact, wicked, revengeful, malicious divisions, in well-looking, arrogant, swift, well-arranged lines of great heroes; in sharp, terrible, haughty, venomous phalanxes of valour; in broad, rapid, furious, wide-defending flames of the battle field; in zealous, distinguished, rapid, unopposable crowds of contest; and in hard, princelike, courageous, connected lines of battle, with three ardent, terrible-faced, impregnable, bristling bulwarks of battle formed, condensed, and consolidated, as well, as formidably, and as terribly as their chiefs and arch-nobles were able respectively to arrange them; with their hard, smooth-handled, well-made, warlike forest of ice-like, shining, blood-red, beacon-like, lucky spears

cleth caillti, cnuaidi, cpann-riedi, coraigti, cupata caeta, do ple-
gaib reabha, roignenta, rrib-ruada, reol-comarataca, renta,
pompu caeta ro-dinge fa meigib, ocur fa m-bratachaib blaiti,
bheid-gela, boib-nuoi, brec-daataca, baubha; ocur clap-rceimelta
cengailti, com-dluta, com-arda, craeb-daataca, cae-rcaie ar a
cul-rein i comnoidi; ocur fal-chieada feigi, foetaigti, ocur fuirigti
caeta pedma, do etacur ocur do cimrugad luirech trom, togaib,
taeb-crebraid, taet-lom-chnaid, teaetaigti treara, ocur cair-
benta toraig trom gliad, ar n-a rreata, ocur ar n-a pluag-dig-
laim do gleire gaitlenneac ocur galgat, ocur do comraigib cupad
ocur cae-mileb; ocur cae-garnda coraigti do cupadaib cengailti
ic doirpreoracht caeta daingin, ocur caeta dluim-ginne duaidrig,
der-arm-faebraig deabeta dib-rein; ar nior fupail fraec fernda,
foetaigti, fal-armda fiod-faebraec, fir-dluie deg-arm, ocur deg-laeac,
ocur deg-dafne a cet ginne gaca caeta ceetarda ne corpuib ocur
ne curnuad a celi.

ba h-imda, am, acu-rum earr 6g, agmar, aiblennta, arm-in-
nillti, gan filluid, ocur midach meap-maimec, mal-fuaicuid,
mercnaiti mor-trepa gan minugad; ocur leaccanach laidri,
lonn-mer, lann-dec, laec-lebairti luirg, gan locrugad; ocur cae-
cuingib comnirt, cenn-ard, clep-armac coetaigti comlaind, gan
cumrugad; ocur rig-milid pectmar, puitenta, pend-gaibteac,
porc-ficda, po-bladaec, gan poraet, ar ti treara do tennad ocur
do tren-fuapait, co potal, polamaig, in aicill a pedma d'fulang,
ocur d'potugad, ocur d'imcongball, co fraecda, pormata, ar
lom-ti a lama, ocur a lann-claibem do lan-dergad, co luaet-mer,
lan-arnaid, ar laetair in laite rin.

Cid traet, in tan porrat cairgreca tromgliad a tren-fir,
ocur porrat armda, innillti, oll-ectadaec a n-anraib, ocur porrat
fraecda, feraga, pormata, fregaetaca a fennid, ocur porrat
roinne, runtaca, ruirigti a pluag-foirne coraigti caeta, pucratar
puatar

spears straight before them, bearing their flowered, white cloth, new-bordered, parti-coloured banners and ensigns; and lofty breast-works of well-secured, well-pressed, variegated battle shields permanently placed behind them; and a firm rampart to sustain and arrest every assault, brought together and collected of heavy, well-chosen, bare-sided, tightly-braced, hard loricæ to receive an assault, and exhibit the front of a heavy conflict, arranged and selected by the elite of warriors and heroes, and of triumphant soldiers and champions, and a battle guard arranged of equipped champions, door-keeping every fastness, and every formidable, ready, sharp-armed, battling phalanx of them; because it was indispensable to have a sustaining, compact, furious rampart composed of good men and good heroes with choice weapons, in the first rank of each of the two divisions to resist and withstand the enemy.

Among them was many a youthful, valorous, aspiring, well-armed hero without treachery; many a swift-triumphant, nobly-dressed, rapid-wounding, great-battled warrior untamed; many a strong, robust, vigorous, hero-slaughtering champion unchecked; many a robust, high-headed, at-weapon-dexterous, and battle-maintaining soldier unappalled; many a royal, rightful, magnificent, spear-terrible, fierce-eyed, very renowned leader indomitable, *who was* about to support, sustain, and keep up his exertion fiercely and valiantly, and ready to redden his hand and his sword rapidly and cruelly on that day.

At length, when the mighty men were ready for the heavy contest, when the warriors were armed, arrayed, excited; when their heroes were furious, angry, valiant, ready to meet *every challenge*; and when the battalions were ready, active, arranged, and arrayed, they made a royal, legal, spear-terrible, furious rush, and a hard, firm, vigorous onset, without mercy, without consideration, against each

puatar riḡda, peccmar, penn-gaibéech, puatar-borb, ocur cátreim
 cruaid, cobraid, com-dicra cupad, gan cáigill, gan cómpégaib, i cer-
 taidib a céli; gur criénaisget in clár caeb-erom, cneaisaigéech,
 criadaigi, fa coisib, ar cumuirc ocur ar comdoiread na cat-laem
 cupata córaigéi ar cerit-lar crand-Muigi Comair, púiri a raiteir
 Maḡ puad-linnéic Rath. Ocur aḡ dian-aiḡnam do na dúp-ḡlogaib
 dáraicta do cum Domhnall at beir an laoið :

Trén teaccat catá Congail
 cugainn tar at an Oirainn ;
 mar téagait i d-erpar na b-ferar
 ni peccat a leap a laoiðead.
 Comairé an mar mór Macha,
 ríol ruaitne ronnaib catá,
 meirge gaic ríḡ neil co rat
 ór a cínó fein go raíðnac.

Meirge

^s *This poem*, which is wanting in the vellum copy, is supplied from Mac Morisy's paper copy, in the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith. The fourth quatrain of it has been quoted by Keating, in his notice of the Battle of Magh Rath, in the reign of Domhnall, grandson of Ainmire, and through his work it became well known to the Irish scholars of the last two centuries. A corrupt imitation of this quatrain was inscribed on a modern tomb-stone, dated 1764, in the abbey church of Multifernan, in the county of Westmeath, where an enthusiastic Irishman mistook it for the epitaph on the tomb of Conchobhar Mac Nessa, who was king of Ulster in the beginning of the first century. As such it

was sent to the poet Moore, who has given a *fac simile* of it in the folio edition of his *Irish Melodies*, p. 84, with the following note :

"The inscription upon Connor's tomb (for the *fac simile* of which I am indebted to Mr. Murphy, chaplain of the late Lady Moira) has not, I believe, been noticed by any antiquarian or traveller."

It is strange that our great bard should have received this quatrain as an epitaph on Conchobhar Mac Nessa, who died in the beginning of the first century, as if that king could have been buried in the abbey church of Multifernan, which was founded by William Delamar, an Englishman, in the year 1236. And it is still

other, so that they shook the heavy-sodded, clayey-surfaced plain under their feet, after the commingling and mutual rushing together of the hero-arrayed, fiery battalions on the very middle of the wooded Magh Comair, which is now called the red-pooled Magh Rath. When these stubborn, impetuous forces of *Congal* were vehemently advancing on Domhnall he repeated this poem²:

"Mightily advance the battalions of Congal
 To us over the ford of Ornamh,
 When they come to the contest of the men,
 They require not to be harangued.
 The token of the great warrior of Macha,
 Variegated satin, on warlike poles,
 The banner of each bright king with prosperity
 Over his own head conspicuously *displayed*."

The

more extraordinary that the date and *English* part of the epitaph on this tomb should have been concealed, for had the whole been given, its true character could never have been mistaken. It may be well, therefore, lest the *fac simile* published by Mr. Moore should descend to posterity as the epitaph of Conor Mac Nessa, to transcribe here the entire inscription:

"HOC TEGITUR SAXO DOMINUS PIETATE REFULGENS JACOBUS GAYNORUS PROGNATUS STEMMATE CLARO.

"PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF JAMES GAYNOR, OF LEANY, WHO DIED JANUARY 15TH, 1764, AGED 66 YEARS, ALSO FOR HIS ANCESTORS AND POSTERITY."

After which follow in Irish the words

of which Moore has given a *fac simile*:

"Ceoman buíde ar ríol uairne
 Meirge cūn na Craoibhe Ruaidhe
 A re so bíod ag Concoibap 'ra ccaí
 A ríop éuargam 'ra bíbeirte Allmúrac."

Mr. Moore of course never saw this tombstone, and his correspondent, Mr. Murphy, seems to have been a bad judge of the antiquity of Irish inscriptions. The publication of monuments of this kind, as if of remote date, has brought our antiquities into contempt among the learned, but it may be hoped that better times are now coming, and that the antiquarians of Ireland will in future study our monuments better than to lay before the public an inscription of the latter part of the eighteenth, for one of the first century.

Meirge Sgannlain,—rḡiam co n-aḡ,—
 iṛ Fiačna mōir, mic baedain,
 mōr la toet foḡla dia rinn,
 ata oṛ cind Congail cūgoinn.

Leoman buide i rḡol uaine,
 comarda na Cṛaob Ruaidē
 map do baoi aḡ Concobhar caid,
 ata aḡ Congal u'a Congmair.

Meirgeba maicne Eacbač
 i u-topac na pluag rreatač
 meirgeba donna map daiḡ
 oṛ cṛanna corra Cṛumthainn.

Meirge riḡ breatan briḡmōir
 Conan Rot, an riḡ-milid,
 rḡol reandac, ḡorm iṛ ḡeal,
 co h-eangac ar na amlad.

Meirge Riḡ Saxon na ploḡ
 ar bratač leatan, lan-mōr,
 buide iṛ deapcc, co raidbir ioin;
 oṛ cind Dairbre, mic Dorrmōir.

Meirge Ri fearḡna Feabail,
 noča paca a ionnṛamair
 oṛ a cind, nī cealg ḡo n-ḡeib,
 dub aḡur deapḡ co deimōin.

Meirge

^h *The banner of Scannlan.*—Meirge Sgannlain, &c.—See pedigree of Congal, at the end of the volume, from which it will appear that this Scannlan, Fiačna, and Baedan were the father, grandfather, and great grandfather of Congal.

ⁱ *Such as the noble Conchobhar bore.*—Map do baoi aḡ Concobhar caid.—He was Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Ulster, already mentioned in Note ^g, p. 226.

Dr. John Lynch, in his Latin version of Keating's History of Ireland, gives the

The banner of Scannlan^b,—an ornament with prosperity,—
 And of Fiachna Mor, the son of Baedan,
 Great symbol of plunder floating from its staff,
 Is over the head of Congal *advancing* towards us.

A yellow Lion on green satin,
 The insignia of the Craebh Ruadh,
 Such as the noble Conchobhar boreⁱ,
 Is now held up by Congal.

The standards of the sons of Eochaidh^j
 In the front of the embattled hosts
Are dun-coloured standards like fire
 Over the well-shaped spear-handles of Crumthann.

The standard of the vigorous King of Britain,
 Conan Rod, the royal soldier,
 Streaked satin, blue and white,
 In folds displayed.

The standard of the king of Saxonland of hosts
 Is a wide, very great standard ;
 Yellow and red, richly displayed
 Over the head of Dairbhre, son of Dornmor.

The standard of the majestic king of Feabhail^k
 (I have not seen such another)
Is over his head (no treachery does he carry *with him*),
 Black and red certainly.

The

following translation of this quatrain :

“Gesseret in viridi flavum bombicæ leonem
 Crebroa progenies, Conchaui symbola
 clari

Congallus quæ nunc signis intexta viden-
 tur.”

^j *The standards of the sons of Eochaidh.*—

Meirgeba maicne Eacóac,—i. e. either
 of the race of Eochaidh Cobha, the father
 of Crunn Badhraighe, who was King of
 Ulster for twenty-two years, or of the sons
 of Eochaidh Buidhe, King of Scotland.

^k *King of Feabhail*—of Foyle, that is,
 of Ailech.

Meirge Suibne, beart buíde
 Rí oirdeir Dal Araidhe,
 Spol buíde, or reim-peap na ríóǵ,
 buinne méir-geal na meadon.

Meirge Feardomán na b-plead,
 Ríǵ airm-deirg Aird Ulad,
 Spol glé-geal ne gnein 'r ne gaoit
 ór an tpen-peap gan taṁaoir.

Trén, &c.

Imthug-a Suibne, mic Colmain Chuair, mic Cobtaig, ríǵ Dal
 n-Araidí, impaiden againn ne heab eli. Tancatar paennella
 fualaing fáiride ne grain, ocur ne gnuamdaṁt, ocur ne gno-dmire
 na n-Ṣaodal; ne deirad, ocur ne dellrad, ocur ne duairige na
 n-danan; ne blorad, ocur ne borb-gair, ocur ne búirpedaig na
 caṁ-cineo conṁarad, ceṁtarad, ic roṁtain ocur ic reṁt-innraigio
 aṁaile. Ro erǵodar eadar-luaimnig aibbli, anforuṁda, uaṁbaracha
 aeoir, corabadar ina cuaineabar conṁraṁta, cumairc, 'gá com-
 buairped; ocur ina tarṁánaib troma, tairbrecha, tárc-labairṁa,
 tuairṁbil, gan tairuṁium; ocur ina raeb-ṁluagaib roinnme, ríṁalta,
 ríangoirṁi, raṁṁanaṁa, riabairṁi, ar ríṁ-ṁiubal, ic faeioib, ocur ic
 fead-gairi, ocur ic foluaimnig impu, ar caṁ áirṁ, do meath ocur
 do mi-cumdaṁ mīolach ocur maṁtṁgláṁ, do ṁennad ocur do ṁpen-
 gneraṁt cúrad ocur caṁmilead; gur ob do congair in ṁata, ocur
 ne h-abairib na n-arracht, ocur ne tarṁanǵail na troma-gon ic
 toirṁium ar cupaid-pennaib cṁairṁech ocur ar colg-depaib claidem
 ocur ar laechbilib letar-ṁiaṁ. Ro linad ocur ro luat-meadrad
 in raep mīled Suibne do cṁit ocur do grain ocur do gēindecht;
 d'oillc

¹ *Ard Uladh*, in Latin, *Altitudo Ulto-* Down, lying principally between Strang-
rum, now the Ards, in the county of ford Lough and the sea.

The standard of Suibhne, a yellow banner,
 The renowned king of Dal Araidhe,
 Yellow satin, over that mild man of hosts,
 The white-fingered stripling himself in the middle of them.
 The standard of Ferdoman of banquets,
 The red-weaponed king of the Ards of Ulster',
 White satin to the sun and wind displayed^m
 Over that mighty man without blemish.

Mightily," &c.

With respect to Suibhne, the son of Colman Cuar, son of Cobhthach, king of Dal Araidhe, we shall treat of him for another while. Fits of giddiness came over him at *the sight of* the horrors, grimness, and rapidity of the Gaels; at the looks, brilliance, and irksomeness of the foreigners; at the rebounding furious shouts and bellowings of the various embattled tribes on both sides, rushing against and coming into collision with one another. Huge, flickering, horrible aerial phantoms rose up, so that they were in cursed, commingled crowds tormenting him; and in dense, rustling, clamorous, left-turning hordes, without ceasing; and in dismal, regular, aerial, storm-shrieking, hovering, fiend-like hosts constantly in motion, shrieking and howling as they hovered about them [i. e. *about both armies*] in every direction to cow and dismay cowards and soft youths, but to invigorate and mightily rouse champions and warriors; so that from the uproar of the battle, the frantic pranks of the demons, and the clashing of arms, the sound of the heavy blows reverberating on the points of heroic spears and keen edges of swords, and the warlike borders of broad shields, the noble hero Suibhne was filled and intoxicated

^m *White satin to the sun displayed.*— end of this volume. It is strange that no
 For some account of the armorial bearings account of this Ferdoman is preserved in
 among the ancient Irish see Note II, at the the Irish Annals.

d'oillt ocur d'paennell ocur d'polumain, d'uaman ocur d'puarcar, ocur d'fír-gealtaét, d'fualang, ocur d'uathbar, ocur d'fanbporur; conac bui mo alt na áige, ó bunn go baíur, do ná deyna cairche cumurcda criu-hluaimnec, ne criu na comeagla, ocur ne pcemlig na p'cuideamlacta. Ro criuenaigret a cora, mar buo nept ppoeta go rir-tuargain; no tuitret a airm ocur a ilfaebra uada, ar lagao ocur ar luath-ríned a lue-glac impu, ne h-anaccbaing a n-imcóngbala; no leatrat ocur no luaimnigret a ó-doirpí eir-tecta ne gabao na gealtaéta; no inclaíret angala a incindí i cúralaib a cind ne poéram na félmaine; no clirertar a craíde ne gíob-biogao na genbeéta; no opluaimnig a uplabra ne me-paídeét in mícaraib; no eadapbuaraig a ainim [anam] co n-aigned ocur co n-ilpuinib imda, uair ba h-i rin píém ocur poeta fír-díler na fír eagla fein. Rob é a innpamail ann fein mar bír bradan i m-buailib, no én ar na up-gabail i carcar combluta cliabain. Aét céná nír mo-lác ocur nír mepaigí mí-gaírcib peme píam in tí d'á tancadar na h-abairí ocur na h-airpdena tindrceadail teóib ocur upríalla imgabala rin; aét no mallact Ronain, .i. panceir, d'a no buaírbes ocur ar-d-naeim Epenn d'a eapcaine ar na ríneao ocur ar na rapugao fa planaiget, ocur marbta in núc cleirig da muinnter ór cind na clapach coireagaréa, inunn rón ocur na fír-éppat fonn-glaim ar ar' cuíreao cpeadpa ocur comainb in Coimdeb d'uairlib ocur d'ar-d-maírb Epenn ocur do cách ar céana, ne comríall in cáta.

Imchurá Suibne, mic Colmain Chuair, mic Cobéar, níg Dal
n-Áraíde

^a *St. Ronan*. — He was abbot of Druim-ineascluinn (now Drumiskin), in the county of Louth; see Note ^a, p. 40, *supra*: where Lanigan's error in confounding Druim-ineascluinn with Drumshallon is corrected.

Lanigan was misled by Colgan (*Acta SS.* p. 141, n. 17), who is the real author of this mistake. The name Druim-ineascluinn is retained to this day by those who speak Irish, and is always applied by them

n-Áraide, imraithe agairne ne h-eab; o éainic in dlai foluaimneac
 fulla rin fáir-ríum, no lingiatar leim luëmar, lan-étróm, conad
 ann no fuirmirtar ar glan-aiglinb pceit in cupad ba comneia
 do; ocur no faemurtar in t-ath-leim, conad ann no fuirmirtar
 ar indeoin cérdcomaréaig éirín caëbairr in cupad cedna; cío
 tracc nír ariúgetar fein epium ic fuirmed fair, gér ba corrac
 in caëáir comnabí ar ar éindeatar. Conad aipe rin no forbur-
 tar rum aen comairli anbforaib, éciallaib, .i. duium ne dainib,
 ocur porcnun ne fiadaib, ocur comriú ne ceataib, ocur imlué ne
 h-énaib, ocur fein i paraisib. Comad aipe rin, no fuirmirtar in
 tpeir leim luëmar, lan-étróm, conad ann no anurtar ar barr in
 bile buada no boi ar min-óirib in muigi, áit i rabadar fo-fluaig
 ocur pandraigi fein n-Érenn, i compegad in caëa. Ro gréacat
 fein ime-ríum ar cach aipb 'ga faicrin d'a éennad ocur da éimpu-
 gad 'rin caëlatar cedna; ip de rin nucrum tpi tpien-peadga
 cinneanair d'imgabail na h-irgail, ocur ip é tapla dó dul i cenn
 na cath-laitreac cedna, ne muirbell ocur ne meiribeac in mütaraib;
 acc éna ní calam do éairliub, acc ip ar formnab fein ocur ar
 cennaib caëbairr no éindead.

Tapla aipe inbfeimí caic co coitcénn ar Shuibne fa'n ramla-
 rin, cor ub é comrad cach cupad ne éeilí, na téid, na téid fein in
 inair órcumdaig examail uair, a píru, bar iatrun, gan tograím
 ocur gan tárracáin, .i. inar in aipb-rig h-ua Áinmirech no bui uime
 ríum in laite rin, ar na éidnacul ó Domnall do Chongal, ocur ar
 na éidnacul o Chongal do Shuibne, do fein mar porgler Suibne a
 n-inad elí:

ba h-e gué caé aen duine
 do'n t-pluag décla daith,

na

° *Who however did not feel him.*—It was
 the ancient belief in Ireland, and is still in
 some of the wilder mountainous districts,

that lunatics are as light as feathers, and
 can climb steep and precipices like the
 Somnabulists.—See Buile Shuibhne, al-

thach, king of Dal Araidhe, let us treat of him for *another* while; when he was seized with this frantic fit, he made a supple, very light leap, and where he alighted was on the fine boss of the shield of the hero next him; and he made a second leap and perched on the vertex of the crest of the helmet of the same hero, who, however, did not feel him^o, though the chair on which he rested was an uneasy one. Wherefore he came to an imbecile, irrational determination, namely, to turn his back on mankind, and to herd with deer, run along with the showers, and flee with the birds, and to feast in wildernesses. Accordingly he made a third active, very light leap, and perched on the top of the sacred tree which grew on the smooth surface of the plain, in which tree the inferior people and the debilitated of the men of Erin were seated, looking on at the battle. These screamed at him from every direction as they saw him, to press and drive him into the same battle again; and he in consequence made three furious bounces to shun the battle, but it happened that, *instead of avoiding it*, he went back into the same field of conflict, through the giddiness and imbecility of his hallucination; but it was not the earth he reached, but alighted on the shoulders of men and the tops of their helmets.

In this manner the attention and vigilance of all in general were fixed on Suibhne, so that the conversation of the heroes among each other was, "Let not," said they, "let not^p the man with the wonderful gold-embroidered tunic pass from you without capture and revenge." He had the tunic of the monarch the grandson of Ainmire upon him on that day, which had been presented by Domhnall to Congal, and by Congal to Suibhne, as Suibhne *himself* testifies in another place :

"It was the saying of every one
Of the valiant, beauteous host,

Permit

ready often alluded to.

να τέτο.—This verb is here repeated in

^p *Let not, said they, let not.* — Να τέτο, both copies. The verb, particularly in the

na teit uaid pa'n cael-muine,
 fear in inair maith.

Ba móidí a muirbell ocur a meirugad miéapaid cách ba com-
 aiéne pa'n cuma rin, ocur po boi rium ar in buaidreod booba rin
 no co tucad cith cruaid, mer cloé íneacta—d'inncomarpta ármuig
 d'fepaid Erenn—gor gluaiertar rum leir rin cith rin, mar gac
 n-eaéaid n-ármuigi ele, amail arbert Suibne in inad eli :

Rop é rin mo céo rié-ra,
 po pa luat in rith,
 d'eas uréar na goénaide,
 dam-ra per in cié.

Conio pe geltaé ocur pe genidecht po cind comairli o rin
 amac i cein po pa beo.

Cio traé, ger ba daingen dín-armda, delg-pennac cac airé
 ocur cac airéill do na cataib cechardá i g-comrag, porpat aib-
 lenna, aimdera, urrcailti, ar n-aécuma, a n-anrad, ocur a n-gaié-
 lenn n-gaircib ; ocur porpat rceimelta, rcainneréi, rciat-bhuiréi,
 ar n-a rcailed, a leibenna línide, lebur-rciath, ar na lan-bhuirid.
 Deirébir doib-ríum ón, uair ba cié-anrad cuan-traéca calaid gan
 porcad gan accairíóit ar tñen-éaéaid tuatáirid, tarpm-gáithe
 tuairceirtaigi in talman, dár ab ainm pegainni, rainuigéi, pluag-
 bepla raer Eabraid, rabrtinorur, amail acbert in file :

Querpar in gaet a near,
 rabrtinorur atuid gan éear,

rtéperur

imperative mood, is, even in the modern vernacular Irish, often repeated for the sake of emphasis.

^a *And it was by lunacy.*—Conio pe geltaé, &c.—Suibhne was, many years afterwards, murdered at Tigh Moling, now

St. Mullin's, in the county of Carlow, by Mongan, the swineherd of St. Moling, and was interred with great honours in the church there, by the saint himself, who, it appears, had a great veneration for this royal lunatic. His eccentric adventures

Permit not to go from you to the dense shrubbery
The man with the goodly tunic."

His giddiness and hallucination of imbecility became greater in consequence of all having thus recognized him, and he continued in this terrible confusion until a hard, quick shower of hailstones,—an omen of slaughter to the men of Erin,—began to fall, and with this shower he passed away like every bird of prey; as Suibhne said in another place :

" This was my first run,—
Rapid was the flight,—
The shot of the javelin expired
For me with the shower."

And it was by lunacy^a and imbecility he determined his counsels from that out as long as he lived.

To proceed. Though every part and division of both contending armies were solid, well-armed, bristly, their heroes and valiant spearmen were scattered, disarrayed, dispersed, and deformed; their lines of broad shields being broken through were scattered, disordered, and shattered. The reason was, there was then a shower-storm on the haven without shelter or harbour against the mighty squalls of the high, loud-howling north wind of the earth, which, in the copious, noble Hebrew language, is called by the appropriate name of Sabstindrus, as the poet says :

" Auestar is the southern wind,
Sabstindrus the northern without doubt,

Steferus

are minutely detailed in a curious ancient Irish romance entitled *Buile Shuibhne*, i. e. Madness of Suibhne, which immediately follows the Battle of Magh Rath in Mac

Morissy's paper copy of this tale, which has been already so often referred to. The word *gealtaect* is used to this day in the sense of *lunacy* or *madness*.

ῥτέφευρ α μαρ γαν ἄιν,
 ὑλῦλανυρ 'n α κομβάλ,

Ocyr din for, ba mian-glacab mogab ar pand-ḡlataib foit-
 nemla fiobaiḡi ga follrccaḡ, .i. forḡac, ocyr forḡceab, ocyr
 ferḡ-diḡraḡt na féinneḡ, ḡrepaḡt, ocyr ḡeognaḡ, ocyr ḡriḡab
 na n-ḡaircebaḡ ic tennaḡ ocyr ic timḡellaḡ na tpen-ḡer. Ocyr
 din ba ḡroḡ-ḡreapa ḡaibniḡe le h-orḡaiḡ iomḡrḡmaiḡ, ḡle-boḡba
 ḡabann ar ḡinḡib taeb-ḡerḡa, taibḡeḡa tellaiḡ 'ḡá tpen-tuap-
 ḡain, bḡorḡab, ocyr bḡuaibḡeab, ocyr bḡaḡ-aiḡleḡ na m-buiben;
 peccaḡ, ocyr ḡluaiḡ-neapḡ, ocyr ḡḡaiḡpebaḡ na ḡluaiḡ ḡotal-boḡib,
 ic coḡnum, ocyr ic congbaḡl, ocyr ic comḡeaccaḡ ar α ḡeli; conap
 aiḡiḡ aiḡeḡ na aiḡo-ḡiḡ comḡennaḡ α ḡapac ḡo ḡomḡoiḡi α ḡeneoiḡ,
 na ḡoreiḡen ḡḡi-aiḡme na aen-ḡinḡ ḡ'ḡaḡraibe α ḡialuḡa. Ocyr
 din ni mó ḡo moḡaiḡreḡ caem-clanna cupab ḡoḡaiḡ α ḡinnḡeap
 na α ḡap-aiḡreḡ ḡa ḡáruḡab; ocyr ḡḡi b'iaḡriḡe ann niḡ ḡét-
 ḡaiḡerḡap cabaiḡ na cuḡnḡmaḡ α caḡac na α lan-aiḡne 'ḡa laeḡ-
 aiḡleḡ, ocyr 'ḡa ḡorḡḡeab ocyr 'ḡa ḡoḡbuḡ 'na ḡiaḡnaiḡi; uaiḡ ba
 h-uilliu ocyr ba h-aibḡiḡi le caḡ n-aen uaiḡib α ḡeioḡm ocyr α
 eḡualaiḡ bodein ḡe ḡeḡbiḡ na ḡála ḡin, ná ḡeioḡm ocyr ḡoreiḡen
 α ḡapac ḡo ḡumḡuḡab, ná α ḡiḡerḡa ḡo ḡeḡapḡain.

Cio tḡa aḡt, ni ḡnáḡ ḡerb-ḡul ḡaiḡ ḡérḡuba, na iaḡḡab ḡan
 ḡoreiḡen, na caḡ-ḡoi ḡan ḡró-linḡi. Ocyr din ḡob imḡa 'ḡa n-ḡḡail
 ḡin ḡuiḡime ḡaena, ḡoiḡḡiḡe, ocyr ḡḡonga ḡuaibḡeḡa, ḡian-maḡbḡa,
 ocyr tpen-ḡiḡ taeb-ḡiḡḡi, tḡapcaḡiḡi, ocyr aiḡiḡ uaḡmaḡa, ḡoḡ-
 baiḡḡi, ocyr ḡceiḡh ḡcaḡḡiḡḡi, ḡcainḡerḡa, ocyr ḡḡeḡa ḡḡúb-ḡillḡi,
 ḡeam-lúḡḡa, ocyr claiḡme caḡmeḡa, cḡuaib-bḡiḡi; ocyr ḡḡap-
 linḡi ḡuilḡe, ḡor-ḡerḡa ḡola, ocyr ḡolḡ-ḡrend ḡeinneḡ ar ḡolu-
 main,

^r *Uluanus*.—Our author, or his inter-
 polator, is mistaken in supposing the names
 of the winds in the foregoing quatrain to
 be Hebrew; they are no more than cor-

ruptions of the names given by Pliny,
 Hist. Nat. l. ii. 47. "Auestar" is evi-
 dently *Auster*; "Sabstindrus" seems some
 disguised form of *Septentrio*; "Steferus"

Steferus the western without error,

And Ulsulanus' its corresponding *wind* (i. e. *the east*)."

And moreover, like the eagerness with which labourers grasp the feeble twigs of the forest wood in cutting them, was the stern, dark, intense wrath of the heroes, the exciting, slaughtering, and stirring up of the champions *on the one side*, pressing upon and surrounding the mighty men *on the other*. And like the rapid and violent exertion of smiths, mightily sledging the glowing iron masses of their furnaces, were the incitements, smiting and slaughtering of the troops; the firmness, the strength, and the snorting of the haughty-furious hosts, opposing, resisting, and viewing each other; so that neither chief nor arch-prince perceived the assistance of his friends, nor the nearness of his tribe, nor the oppression *suffered by* his own people, or any part of his relatives. Neither did the fair sons of heroes perceive the difficulties of their fathers or grandfathers while being oppressed, nor did they mind to aid or assist their friends or intimate acquaintances, while being heroically slaughtered, hacked, and cut down in their presence; for each of them deemed his own exertion and suffering during the violence of that action too extensive and vast, to think of the struggle or suffering of his friends, or to protect his lord.

Howbeit, true weeping does not usually occur without tearful sorrow, nor groaning without violence, nor a battle-field without floods of blood. And accordingly many were the feeble, lacerated troops, the horribly-slaughtered bands; mighty men side-mangled, prostrated; haughty chieftains hewn down; shields cleft and scattered; spears warped and rivet-bent; warlike swords hard-broken; rapid streams of red-blood flowing; and the hair of heroes' flying and hovering
in

is *Zephyrus*; and "Ulsulanus," the east wind, is obviously identical with Pliny's *Subolanus*. The ignorance of transcribers, rather than of the author, is probably the source of these corruptions.
* *The hair of heroes*. — See the account

main, co nár ba léir lebhairne laramain, lannberda, lan-fair-ring in aeoir uairtib, ne h-imad folc ocup fadb ocup fuinnraib uath-beppéa fadb-rcailtí an-aicnib, ar na n-up-éogbail do cennuib cupad ocup caémileo; conad h-e rin adbar d'ár paraptar fuat-nell foirtéide, fir-doréa, d'ár ceileo in cleití coitcenn clit-fairring céctarba or a cenduib; ocup géir b'iat fonn-céltara folc-glara, fer-dluití in talman fa traigtib, ní lugu no lan-célit ne h-imad na n-ar ocup na n-il-écht ina córraáib cruad-airlig i cenn a céli.

Ro b'é aird-mer ocup innramail a n-eicep ocup a n-olloman ar écorc in armuige rin, gor b'étréoir, ocup gur b'anporuirta do macaib ocup do min-dainib céimnuigad các airdi ocup các inaid a tarla tiug ocup tromlaé in airlig ocup in armuige i cenn a céli. Ní b'ingnad imorria d'écrib an t-aird-mer rin, cib forbann le fiallaé a éirteéa a fuigell; ar ba rrué-aibne rilteá, raeb-diana các clair ocup các clad-erige compeib fa córaib na cupad, ocup ba fpar-linnetí fuiligi, fir-boimne các fán ocup các forad-glenn fod-glár for-leathan fuitib.

Cib tra aét, do badar fáidí foillrigtí fir, ocup foirne foéaigti ocup fiaonairí contaráib, cunnatabairtach, ne fad ocup ne n-a fir-éruar no cótaigret na cupaib céctarba, gan clód gan cum-rcugad ne céli, ír in cáé-laéair. Conio aipe rin nob inderb, ocup nob amairpéc fairtine a pellrum, ocup a fíir-eolach, do dheim dib do leit fo leit, ar n-diultad, ocup ar n-diépeidem dóib ar a n-diabul-éirbaib draidéctá bodein, ne peccad ocup ne fir-deliugad na fluag agaid in agaid ír in imarigail; co ná raibí 'gá fáidib ocup 'gá fíir-eoláib aét a peitem ocup a fupnaib, co fertair ca dhem dib ar a toirnneped, ocup ar a tairnneped turcáiréti ocup

toicéti

of the profusion of human hair which is said to have been cut off the heroes in the Battle of Clontarf, in Dublin Penny Jour.,

vol. i. p. 136. The ancient Irish wore their hair flowing on the shoulders, so that it may have been cut off by the sword in battle.

in the air, so that the broad, bright, brilliant lamp of heaven over them was invisible with the quantity of hair, scalps, and beards cut off and raised up off the heads of heroes and warriors. Wherefore a dark and gloomy cloud was produced, by which the universal, expansive welkin over the heads of both *armies* was concealed; and as to the green-haired, close-grassy carpets of the earth under their feet, they were not less concealed by the immensity of the slain and the numberless victims in litters of dire slaughter over each other.

The estimate and comparison made by their poets and ollaves of the appearance of this slaughter were, that in every spot and place where the thick and prodigiousness of this carnage and slaughter had occurred, it was impossible for boys and small men to pass. This great estimation *made* by the poets, though hyperbolic to a hero's hearing it sounds, was not to be wondered at, for every pit and furrow were flowing dire-rapid rivers under the feet of the champions, and every declivity and green-sodded wide glen were deep pools of blood under them.

In the mean time the soothsayers, the revealers of knowledge, and those who had delivered predictions, were contradictory and doubtful, in consequence of the length of time and stubbornness with which the heroes on both sides maintained the field without yielding or giving way on either side. Wherefore the predictions of their philosophers and wise men became uncertain and doubtful to some of them on either side, they having renounced and disbelieved their own demoniacal sciences of magic, in consequence of the incessant successive rallyings and dispersions of the forces on either side in the contest; so that their diviners and wise men could do no more than remain in a state of suspense and indecision, until they should learn on which party the success and prosperity of the battle would descend

John J. Kelly

τοῖς ἐν τῇ ν-γλίᾳ; οὐρ δὴν πο παμαῖσφεν ἰν δέ νίχ-γυβᾶς Νέιτ
α νεῖτ-δρίγα.

Imchura ceitri mac Eachach buidi, imraithe againn re head
eli. Rucrat dá ruatar deirchnaigti déc fa catuib na cuicebac,
po maibret ocur po maibrat cétt cača cat-laithecc, map fongler
Dubhoiaθ Drai:

Do cuatar tpep in top caiblec

fa do dec,

do maibrat do pluag na caem-pep

da ced dec.

Αἱρετ ἱρ ἰν ἱγᾱιλ ἰοῖρ γαρραδαῖθ Γᾱιλᾱν, ἀρ cinned cača
puathair. Ot concatap cethrai laech-airrech do Laigrib eachrai
na n-Albanach ic comáirlec caic, .i. Amlaib Uallach, ηῖγ Ἀῖα
Cliat, οὐρ Cairpri Crom, ηῖγ Laigri Laigen, οὐρ Aed Airgnecc,
ηῖγ O Ceimprelaig, οὐρ Ailill Cedach, ηῖγ O Failgi, πο ιαορατ

in

¹ *The battle-terrific Beneit.*—*Be* νιῖ-γυ-
buć *Neit*.—She was the Bellona of the
ancient Irish. In Mac Morissy's copy she
is called an *be Gab-uicneo*, and P. Connell
explains it in the margin, the Goddess of
War.

² *The troops of the Gailians.*—Γαρρα-
δαῖθ Γᾱιλᾱν.—*Gailian* is an ancient
name of Leinster.—See O'Flaherty's *Ogy-*
gia, and Duaid Mac Firbis's *Genealogical*
Book.

³ *Amlaibh Uallach, king of Ath Cliath,*—
i. e. of Dublin. This shows that the pre-
sent account of the Battle of Magh Rath
was written many centuries after it was
fought, for Amhlaibh is a Danish name
which the ancient Irish had not in use

among them till they intermarried with
the Danes in the eighth or ninth century.
The writer, evidently without observing
the anachronism, had in view one of the
Amlaffs or Anlaffs, who were Danish kings
of Dublin some centuries after the year
637 or 638, when this battle was fought.
The Irish had the name Amhalgaidh from
the earliest period of their history, but
this, though now Anglicised Awley, and
possibly of cognate origin with the Dano-
Irish Amhlaibh, Anlaf, Amlaff, Olaf, or
Awley, is not identical with it.

⁴ *Cairbre Crom, king of Laighis, in Lein-*
ster.—Laighis or Laoighis, which is Lati-
nised Lagisia and Anglicised Leis and Leix,
is a territory in the present Queen's county;

and tarry, and which of them the battle-terrific Beneit' would more inspire with her vigors.

With respect to the four sons of Eochaidh Buidhe, we shall treat of them for another while. They made twelve remarkable rushes into the battalions of the provincialists, and defeated and slew one hundred *persons* in every battle-place, as Dubhdiadh the druid testifies :

“ They passed through the splendid army
Twelve times,
And slew of the host of the fair men
Twelve hundred.”

After completing these onslaughts they stopped in the conflict among the troops of the Gailians^u. Four of the heroic chieftains of Leinster, namely, Amlilaibh Uallach [i. e. *the Haughty*], king of Ath Cliath^v, Cairbre Crom, king of Laighis, in Leinster^w, Aedh Airgnech, king of Ui Ceinnselach^x, and Ailill Cedach, king of Ui Failghe^y, perceiving

but it is not co-extensive with that county, as generally supposed by modern Irish topographers, for Laighis comprised no portion of the barony of Upper Ossory, nor of the baronies of Tinnahinch or Portnahinch, and scarcely any of the barony of Slievemargy.

^u *Aedh Airgnech, king of h-Ui Ceinnsellaigh.*—For an account of the extent of this territory see Circuit of Muirchertach Mac Neill, p. 36.

^v *Ailill Cedach, king of O'Failghe.*—It is stated in *Buile Shuibhne* that this Ailill was slain in the Battle of Magh Rath by Suibhne Geilt. O'Failghe, which is Latinised Ofalia and Ophalia, and Anglicised

Offaly and Ophaley, is a territory not entirely in the present King's County, as is generally assumed by modern Irish topographers, but situated partly in that county and partly in the county of Kildare and the Queen's County. It is generally supposed that in the reign of Philip and Mary the territory of Leix was formed into the Queen's County, and that of Ophaley into the King's County; but this is a very great error, for there is nearly as much of Ophaley included in the Queen's as there is in the King's County, and besides, the baronies of Garrycastle, Ballycowan, Fercal, Clonlish, and Ballybritt, in the latter county, were never included

in ceṛpar cupad rin urnarc imḡona ar óḡ-rigraio Alban, ḡur
 cippṛac caegad cupad caḡa rin co n-a foiruib 'na ríadnairi. Nír
 maiṛet meic Eachach a n-anbala do'n céo ruatṛar cupad rin;
 ceṛt ḡabair Congal Cairppri 'r in comluno; oluṛaigir Domnall in
 iṛḡal ar Amlaib; rannṛaigir Suibne in imḡuin ne Ailell; ro
 orbrat in da Aed a n-imbualad. Ropṛat comóḡalta a cneada
 ar a céli oṛtar airéḡ na h-imlaioi, ḡur maiṛet meic Eachach
 airéḡur corcair na cat-lairéḡ, amail arbert in file:

Topcair Aed Airgnech imne
 la h-Aed mac Eachach buide,
 ne Suibne pluagach 'r in cat
 i topcair Ailell Cébach.

Cairppri, rig Laigni na lenn,
 i topcair ne Congal Meno,
 ne Domnall m-bréac co n-aíne
 topcair Amlaib imṛaile.

Cio trácṛ, nír meṛa ocur nír midlaḡu meirnéḡ ocur mor-
 ḡuimṛad maicne breḡ-deṛḡ Domnaill, mic Aeda, mic Ainmireḡ,
 ic diḡail éned in ceṛpar rin ar Ullṛaib ocur ar allmarḡaib, .i.
 Ferḡur, ocur Aengur, Ailell, ocur Colḡu, ocur Conall a comar-
 manna: ar m-buadugad caḡa báire, ocur ar maidem caḡa mó-
 corcair, ocur ar cinṛed caḡa cat-ruathair do macaib airṛ-rig
 Eṛenn, do comṛaiceṛ, cenn i cenn, ocur ceirṛe meic rig Alban.
 Ro rairṛet ocur ro rannṛaigṛet reiruir roinemail do na clann-
 maicnib rin a celi, .i. Congal, ocur Suibne, ocur Aed, ṛri meic
 Eachach buioi, Ailell, ocur Colḡu, ocur Conall, ṛri meic Domnaill.

Nír

in the ancient Ophaley. This territory,
 which is very famous in Irish history,
 comprised the baronies of Upper and
 Lower Ophaley, in the county of Kildare,

those of Portnahinch and Tinnahinch, in
 the Queen's County, and that portion of
 the King's County included in the dioceses
 of Kildare and Leighlin.

ceiving these sallies of the Albanachs slaughtering the people, they closed a wounding circle upon the young princes of Alba, so that each of them cut down fifty heroes with their forces in their presence. The sons of Eochaidh did not forgive them their enmity for this first heroic onslaught. Congal attacked Cairbre in the combat; Domhnall pressed the conflict on Amhlaibh; Suibhne coveted to contend with Ailill, and the two Aedhs longed to come to blows. These eight chiefs of combat inflicted wounds with equal vengeance on one another, and the sons of Eochaidh gained the victory of the battle-place, as the poet says :

“Aedh Airgnech was slain no doubt
 By Aedh, the son of Eochaidh Buidhe;
 By Suibhne, the populous in the strife,
 Ailill Cedach was slain.
 Cairbre, king of Laighis of tunics*
 Was slain by Congal Menn;
 By Domhnall Brec with expertness
 Was Amlaibh, the mariner, slain.”

Howbeit, the courage and great deeds of the blooming-faced sons of Domhnall, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, were not the worse or the more cowardly in revenging the wounds [*deaths*] of these four on the Ultonians and foreigners, viz., Fergus, Aengus, Ailell, Colgu, and Conall by name. After every *other* goal had been won, every great triumph gained, and every battle-onset accomplished by these sons of the monarch of Erin, they and the four sons of the king of Alba fought hand to hand. Six of these puissant sons coveted and sought each other, viz., Congal, Suibhne, and Aedh, three of the sons of Eochaidh Buidhe, and Ailell, Colgu, and Conall, three of the sons of

* *King of Laighis of tunics*. — In the paper copy the reading is Cairbre, *king of Laoigri na lann*, i. e. “Cairbrè, king of Laoighis of *swords*,” but this, though it makes very good sense, does not appear as correct as the reading in the vellum copy as

Nir ba h-eirlebač in imairiuc rin, uair ba comdicra a compac,
ocur ba comterom comadair a comlonn; uair ba comduchcra
comceneoil iur Eriinn ocur Albain cuingeba caema, craeb-uairli,
cádair in comlainb rin ocur in compaic.

Cio tracc nir b'airnem airé iur flaitib ic fleb-ol orru a
h-aiéli na h-imlaide rin, ac̃t ba mear maicne iur marbaib, ar
n-a muogad, ar na coméuicim pe céli, amail arbert in fili:

Ceire meic Echech buid,
cuig meic Domnaill, nig Daire,
debaib no orbradar de,
ot concadar a ceile.

Seiriuir dib-rin forum ngle,
no marbradar a ceile,
Aed, Suibne, Congal na clann,
Ailell, Colgu ocur Conall.

Τυριτέετα in trír nar marbad do'n maicne rin, .i. Fergur
ocur Aengur, da mac Domnaill, ocur Domnall breac, mac Ech-
ach buid. Ac̃t c̃ena, no b'incompaic epein d'Fergur no d'Aengur,
ocur pob' forlann debaib na deri deribrathar 'n-a agaid a aenur;
daig no traeépac ocur no éoirnerar Domnall, gur damair in
t-óg-mac a urgabail; co n-ebairt a breit 'na betaid ar paeram
na plata, ocur a ac̃c̃ur ar h-ua n-Aimirec̃. Ocur do rindead nir
mar do paidiurar; ocur rucad h-e d'innraigib aird-nig Epenn,
gura arploind a fialar 'n a fiaonairi, .i. Colum Cilli, mac Feid-
limid, d'oilemain a athar, .i. Echaid buid, mac Aedain, amail
arbert in fili:

Aengur ir Fergur co becc̃
no gabratar Domnall brecc̃,

co

given above in the text, because the rhyme perfect. Na lenn is translated *logarum* by
with *meno* or *meann* would not be so Colgan in *Trias Thaum.* p. 225, col. 1.

of Domhnall. This was not a soft contest, for their fight was equally sanguine and their conflict equally powerful and creditable; for the comely, free-born, honourable heroes of this conflict and combat were of equally noble descent both of Erin and of Alba.

Howbeit, it was not the reckoning of chiefs among princes at a banquet was *to be made* on them after this conflict, but they were estimated as youths among the dead, for they were slain and fell mutually by one another, as the poet says :

“The four sons of Eochaidh Buidhe,
 The five sons of Domhnall, king of Daire,
 Coveted to come to single combat
 When they beheld each other.
 Six of these of bright achievements
Mutually slew each other,
 Aedh, Suibhne, Congal of thrusts,
 Ailell, Colgu, and Conall.”

With respect to the three of these sons who were not slain, viz., Fergus and Aengus, the two sons of king Domhnall, and Domhnall Brec, the son of Eochaidh Buidhe, the latter was fit to contend with either Fergus or Aengus *singly*, but it was too much to have the two brothers against him alone; and they subdued and vanquished him, and that youthful warrior suffered himself to be taken prisoner; and he requested that he might be brought alive under the mercy of the king, and to be handed over to the disposal of the grandson of Ainmirech. This was done accordingly as he had requested: he was conveyed to the monarch of Erin, before whom he pointed out his friendship with his family, viz., that Colum Cille, the son of Feidhlimidh, had fostered his father, Eochaidh Buidhe, the son of Aedan, as the poet says :

“Aengus and Fergus expertly
 Captured Domhnall Brec,

And

co tucpat mac Echach uill
 'n a bechaid i laim Domnall.
 bliadain do i laim Domnall dein,
 co tánic Eochaid d'á peir,
 gur leic Domnall,—garb a gluind,—
 a mac do dalta Coluim.

Cid tráct, mar do éualaid Congal Claen cat-puátar claindi
 Eachach d'fopóibad, ba lonn ocur ba lorcad le Congal ceitpe
 uaitne oirpaca oipeáir Alban d'fopóicéad ar incaib a enig;
 comó aipe rin no clipeptar Congal fá na cataib mar clipep riab-
 mil puath-réadgach, fomóirba fairgi fa mupbrúctaib mong-puaba
 niadmannacha min-éirc mor-mara. Ro leanpat luét a peimí
 ocur a imdeagla Congal do compaignib cupad ocur cat-miled
 Ulad ocur allmapac, fa Conan Rod, mac nig bpetan, ocur fá'n
 caegait cat-miled co n-iapand blocaib Ulltachda acu, mar do
 can Congal in inad eli:

Atú-ra caegait pep pind,
 co n-arm cupad or a cind,
 ic digail m'ole ir mo énead,
 ocur blocc pe cac aen pep.

Cuapraigir Congal epirlac in cata moir ar a medon, ic toga
 epuath itir epen-pepaib, ocur ic aítne aipb-nig itir anpabaib, ic
 pluag-diglaím na paep-cland po-éneoil itir na pluagaib, cumad
 ar éodnaáib in cata no caitépé rum céet-ghinne a pepgi, ocur a
 engnuma, ic comdigail a énead ar éac, gur ob ead aipmúit ugdair
 co nár págaib aipect, na aicme, na apb-cineb d'fepaib Epenn uile
 gan epbaib ocur gan accaine écta aipig no aipb-nig, ic comdi-
 gail claindi Eachach opaib. Áct éna, nup épeicreat teglac a
 eppaécta Congal ir in éatpóin, áct tapm-cloeta in eigerpauir ic
 báduo

And delivered that son of the great Eochaidh
 Alive into the hands of Domhnall.
 He was a year in the hands of bold Domhnall,
 Until Eochaidh came to submit to him,
 So that Domhnall of fierce deed
 Gave up his son to Columb's foster-child."

Now when Congal Claen had heard that the sons of Eochaidh were cut off, it was grief and burning to him that the four illustrious pillars of the renown of Alba should have been destroyed while under his own protection. Wherefore he rushed through the battalions as a furious sea-monster plunges at red-finned retreating small fish of the great sea. His attendants and defenders, *who were* of the choicest of the heroes and warriors of the Ultonians and foreigners, followed Congal under the command of Conan Rod, son of the king of Britain, having Ultonian iron blocks, as Congal said in another place :

"I had fifty fair men,
 With heroic weapons over them,
 Revenging my evils and my wounds,
 And a block with every one man."

Congal scanned the great host from its centre to its borders, selecting the leaders from among heroes, and marking the archchieftains among soldiers, picking the free-born nobility from among the hosts, so that it might be on the chieftains of the army he would expend the first paroxysm of his rage and valour in revenging his wounds on them all; and authors recount that he did not leave a party or tribe of the great tribes of the men of Erin without a loss, or without having to bewail the death of a chief or arch-prince, in avenging the sons of Eochaidh upon them. Howbeit, the attendants of Congal in this sally did not abandon him, but the superior renown

bábuib a m-blaiuib, uair éct i fail níg a ruidleir, amail arbert in
fili :

Éct i fail níg ni tarba
do teglaíuib tnen-calma,
ar na níguib for no deað;
bír a nor gen gob lan-éad.

Ir deirmirecht dorein comigail Congail ocur Conain com-
imraithe a n-deirnat a n-óir amail arbert in file :

Ḡac ar marbadur mapaen,
Conán ir Congal Claen,
ar Chongal ainmnigíteir rin,
cuid Chonáin do'n cóimigail.

No gorr éuit Conan calma,
mac níg dretan brat-amra,
ne Congal Claen noé ar bean
no mac níg na laeé lonn-meir.

Conid aipe rin no epiz iménué Congail ne Conan, fa méid no
marburtar do nígíuib Épenn ina fíadnairi, ocur gan níl a íainti
do tarraéctain d'á tén-feruib ne cleir-íaebruib Conain ic ur-
relaigi ar a uct; gur íuagair Congal do Chonan ceim do cúraduib
Connaéct ocur co tuataib Tempa, co m-beireo rum a báipe fa
tén-feruib in Tuairceir; uair nír líe leir comad aen aipem ar
fein ocur ar pennid map Conan ir in caé-laéair, amail arbert
Flann fili :

Arbert Congal iméig uaim,
a Chonain Ruib co ró buuib !

ni

* This quatrain is supplied from Mac
Morissy's copy, p. 97.

^b *Flann, the poet.*—This quotation shows

that there had been other accounts of the
Battle of Magh Rath, written before the
present story was drawn up, and that the

of royalty eclipsed their fame, for an achievement performed in the presence of a king is his inherent right, as the poet says :

“An achievement with a king is of no avail
To his mighty, brave attendants,
To the kings it will be attributed ;
It is the custom, although not by full consent.”

An illustration of this was the joint battle of Congal and Conan : what both achieved is reported of one, as the poet says :

“What both together slew,
Conan and Congal Claen,
To Congal is attributed,
Conan’s part of the conflict *as well as his own*.
Until the brave Conan fell,
The son of the renowned king of Britain,
Congal Claen was not touched
By the great son of a king or a puissant hero.”

Wherefore Congal’s jealousy with Conan arose in consequence of the great number of the chieftains of Erin he had slain, without leaving him as much as would satisfy his thirst for slaughter, such was the bravery of Conan in casting with his edged weapons from before his [*Congal’s*] breast ; so that Congal ordered Conan to advance to the heroes of Connaught and the tribes of Tara, that he himself might display his valour among the mighty men of the north ; for he did not like that his own achievements on that battle-field should be related in conjunction with those of such a hero as Conan, as the poet Flann^b says :

“Congal said, depart from me
O Conan Rod of great triumph !

There

writer availed himself of older writings, largely on his own imagination for fictitious incidents to fill up his descriptions.

ní uil 'r in cat, a laic luind !
 aet peidm aen duine agunn.
 Luind Conan fa pluag Connaet,
 ocur Tempa na trom-alc,
 do luind Congal, garg a gluind,
 fa pluag compamach Conaill.

Imchura Conain, ar n-deadbail pe Congal no compairced ceat-
 par aipec do rigaib Connaet pe Conan, .i. Suibne, mac Caatail
 Choppaig, nig h-Ua Fiachrach, ocur Aed breacc, nig longporrac
 Luigne, ocur Aed Allan, nig Meadha Siuil, ocur Aed buidne, nig
 h-Ua Maine. Cio traet do rocrabadar in ceetpar rin do cuindcleo
 Conain, mar porgler in t-ugdar :

Mac Caatail Choppaig, Suibne,
 ocur Aed breac, nig Luigne,
 Aed Allan, Aed buidne ban,
 do rocrabadar la Conan.

Congal

^c *Suibhne, king of h-Ui Fiachrach.*—
 h-Ui Fiachrach is the name of a territory
 in the south of the county of Galway,
 which O'Flaherty says is co-extensive with
 the present barony of Kiltartan, but it
 can be proved from the most authentic
 topographical evidences, that before the
 De Burgo's of Clanrickard had dismem-
 bered the original Irish territories of this
 county, h-Ui Fiachrach was exactly co-
 extensive with the diocese of Kilmac-
 duagh, as laid down on Beaufort's Ecclesi-
 astical Map of Ireland. After the esta-
 blishment of surnames the chiefs of this
 territory were the O'Clerys, O'Heynes,
 O'Shaughnessys, and Mac Gillakellys, of

whom, in the later ages, the O'Heynes
 and O'Shaughnessys were by far the most
 distinguished.

^d *Aedh Breac, king of Luigne.*—The an-
 cient territory of Luigne is co-extensive
 with the present barony of Leyny, in the
 county of Sligo, in which the name is still
 preserved. After the establishment of sur-
 names the O'Haras, who are of Momonian
 origin, being descended from Tadhg, son
 of Cian, son of Olioll Olum, were the chiefs
 of this territory.

^e *Aedh Allan, king of Meadha Siuil.*—
 The territory of Meadha Siuil, otherwise
 called Magh Siuil, and Magh Seola, and
 the inhabitants Ui Briuin Seola, was

There is not in the battle, O mighty hero!
But work for one man of us.

Conan went to the forces of Connaught
And of Tara of the heavy deeds,
And Congal of fierce actions
To the valiant forces of Conall."

As for Conan, after his having separated from Congal four chieftains of the Connacians engaged with him, viz., Suibhne, son of Cathal Corrach, king of the Hy-Fiachrach^c, Aedh Brec, king of Luighne^d of fortifications, Aedh Allan, king of Meadha Siuil^e, and Aedh, of numerous hosts, king of Hy-Maine^f, and these four fell by the brave conflict of Conan, as the author testifies :

"The son of Cathal Corrach, Suibhne,
And Aedh Brec, king of Luighne,
Aedh Allan, Aedh Ban, of numerous hosts,
Were slain by Conan."

Congal

nearly co-extensive with the barony of Clare, in the county of Galway. It extended from Lough Corrib to the conspicuous hill of Knockmea, at Castle Hackett, and from Clarinbridge to the north boundary of the parish of Donaghpatrick. This was the original country of the O'Flahertys, before they were driven across Lough Corrib into the mountains of Connamara and Dealbhna Tire da Loch, by the De Burgo's of Clanrickard.

^f *Aedh, king of Hy-Maine.* — The exact boundaries of the territory of h-Ui Maine are described in O'Dugan's Topographical Poem, and in a MS. pre-

served in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin (H. 3. 18. p. 412.), but it would be too tedious to give them here. It extended, according to these authorities, from the hill of Meadha Siuil, now Knockmea, near Castle Hackett, in the county of Galway, to Lough Ree, in the Shannon, and from Athenry, in the same county, to the boundary of Thomond. But after the Clanrickard Burkes had dismembered the ancient territories of this part of Connaught, the territory of Ui Maine was much circumscribed in its limits, and varied in extent, according to the success or misfortune of its chief, O'Kelly.

Congal imraitheir re h-eab eli. Cindir Congal ceim co cupadaib cornamača Conaill, uair ir friu ba h-uilliu a ferḡ ocur a aininne, ocur ir doib ba mó a mircne ocur a mioduēraēt. Cio trāēt, ḡerrat cruinne, cioda, combera, ocur ḡerrat cerpa, coraiḡēti, comarda cimra ocur caē-imli caēa cornamaig Conaill ar cind Congail, porrat criēnaisēti, cleparmach, ocur porrat rcuētha, rcailteča, rcēnmarā uile iat-rīde ar cumarc do Congal ar tren-feruib in Tuaircirt; ḡor ēincartar tarb-ēodnac tnuēac, torb-buillech Torais, .i. Conall, mac daebain, mic Nindeōa, mic Ferḡura Cenpoda, mic Conaill ḡulban, mic Neill Noi-ḡiallaig, o Thulac, Daēti, ocur o trāēt-poruib Toraisē iar tuaircirt. Ir ann rin no cinderpor Conall ceim cupaid i ḡ-cert aḡaid Congail, do toir-neam a ēreēain, ocur d'irliugad a uabair, ocur do cōrnam ocur do cōbair clainoi cornamaigi Conaill, ar cōngalaib cōmferge Congail. Cio ril ann tra, o do comraicret in da cūingid caēa rin uēt re h-uēt, ocur aḡaid in aḡaid, no aēcūirret da urcūir im-foiccri, fir-ōirge, eturru, ḡur bo cner-buailte, comnuide do cēnduib na ḡcrairech a ḡ-collaib na caē-miled, ocur ḡurrat feioliḡ, faōa, fuiliōe, fir-lebra poraōa fir-laēc crioinn-armēa, comōirge na caē-crairec comraic rin, ar na com-inōrma a cupraib a ceile; iar rin tra no cinneretar Conall porcraib ceime tar conair co Congal d'a earrauidmed, ocur d'a urḡabail, tar a armaib ocur tar a il-faebraib, oir ir e no cetrairdetair Conall nar ab āiter imḡona ocur nar b'oircear imbuaile do a dālta do [ēabair ar n-a] dīleigir no ar n-a dīcēndad co Domnall. Conad iarom po iad ocur po urrnatmurtair conclanna cruaidē, corrnatmanača cupad

^a *Tulach Dathi* was the ancient name of a hill in the barony of Kilmacrenan, in the county of Donegal. It is probably the place now called Tullaghobegly.

^b *Various sharp weapons*, in Irish il-faebraib, a word compounded of il, which in composition has the force of the Latin *multus* or the Greek πολυς, and faebair,

Congal shall be treated off for another while. Congal advanced to the defensive heroes of the Cinel Conaill, for against them his anger and animosity were mostly directed, and for them he cherished most malice and hatred. And though the borders and outskirts of the Cinel Conaill were consolidated, brave, and well-arrayed, adjusted, adapted, and equally high to meet Congal, they were all shaken, dislodged, scattered, and terror-stricken by the mighty onslaught which Congal made on these heroes of the north; until the greedy, heavy-blowed, robustic chieftain of Tory, namely, Conall, the son of Baedan, son of Ninnidh, son of Fergus Cennfoda, son of Conall Gulban, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, of Tulach Dathi², and of the northern ports of Tory opposed him. Then Conall took the step of a hero against Congal to restrain his fury, and to humble his pride, and to protect and assist the defensive race of Conall against his furious attacks. When these two warlike champions had come breast to breast and face to face, they made two close straight-aimed thrusts at each other, so that they buried the heads of their spears in each other's heroic bodies, and so that the trusty, long, bloody, heroic, straight shafts of these battle-fighting spears were mutually socketed in each other's bodies. After this Conall decided to take a step beyond the boundary to Congal to grasp him about and hold him outside his arms and various sharp weapons³, for Conall thought that it would be no triumph of contest or becoming victory in him to present his foster-son beheaded or incurable to *king* Domhnall. Wherefore, he twined his arms in hard-gripping heroic grasps around the body and shoulders

which literally signifies the edge of any weapon, and figuratively the weapon itself. It appears from Magrath's Wars of Thomond, of which there is a MS. in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, that

the weapons with which an Irish chief was armed in the year 1309, were a dagger, a sword hung from his belt, a dart which he carried in his right hand, and a spear or lance which he bore in his left.

cupad tar corp ocur tar cneir-foirmnaib Congail. Fo'n cuma cedna do Congal Claen, iadair ocur uir'nadmair na glac-doirdi garga, gaibteige, geg-doirge gairced, tar corp ocur tar cneir, ocur tar foirmnaib Conaill, ocur tucratar cupra calma, comnepta, coim-dicra d'a ceile, ocur crated neim-meirtnech do rotgail roirien, ocur do raenpadaig no calma apoile, gur bo cairgri eric, talcar, tarb-tnuac, trenceca gac crathad cruaid, comber compinte cuirp ocur cneir criothailme gac celg, ocur corpi, ocur cruaid-gleca do cuirpetar pe ceile; go m-ba ramalta pe raeb-roitlen rap-muillinn ar rir-bleit innarc, ocur imrit, ocur imrimcellad na cupad ar a ceile. Cona no rguirred do'n tpeatan, ocur do'n tarb-gleic, ocur don tnuet-burac trarcarra tnen-fer rin, cor bo caep-meall cun-rcaigtec ar na compuathad an clai caep-eroni, criadaide, cneir-aigte, pa na coraib; gur bo lan-bog labda, luic-linnnech lan-domuin gac inad uirioe, agaid-fluic, ar ar uirnairetar pe rineo, ocur pe ruatao, ocur pe plaedred, pe pparagail, ocur pe bonngail, ocur pe borb-ereirect, pe meircao, ocur pe meallgail, ocur pe muinelad na milea ag roitlen ocur ag roitimpod apoile. Ro cluinrio tra po ceitpe h-ardaib in cata,—mena m-beit menma caic ar comairlec a ceile,—feit-rined a b-feit ag a b-riar-tarraig, ocur alt-geimnech a n-alt ag a n-ebarrcapad, ocur clet-cumgugad a cliab-arnaib ag a comdruo i cenn a ceile, gur bo dicumaing do na deg-laeccuib upatecur ocur upgabail a n-anala, ar g-cumgachad na g-conarad coitcend a n-adairg uataib do gner la porécnech pedma na rir-laecc.

¹ *Violence of their exertions.*—Go m-ba ramalta pe raeb-roitlen rap-muillinn. This is not unlike Carleton's description of the single cudgel combat between Grimes and Kelly, in his *Party Fight and Funeral*, from which we are tempted to quote the following passage, as showing

how the Irish mind in the 19th century, though tamer and more concentrated than that of the 11th, has produced a somewhat similar description of a single encounter. "At length, by a tremendous effort, Kelly got the staff twisted nearly out of Grimes' hand, and a short shout,

shoulders of Congal, and Congal likewise folded and entwined his rough, dangerous, straight-armed hands of valour around the body and shoulders of Conall; they gave brave, mighty, and earnest twists to each other, and tremendous shakes, with mighty and powerful twirling, so that their great efforts and struggles, twining and twirling, were active, firm, fierce, and mighty, like two bulls, and they might be compared to the huge wheel of a mill at rapid-grinding; and they did not desist from these mighty struggles until the deep clayey surface of the earth under their feet was tempered and stripped, and until every moist spot on which they wrestled was soft, miry, and deep, from their stretching, struggling, and trampling, as they turned, swayed, and twirled each other. They would have been heard throughout the four quarters of the battle, were it not that the minds of all were intent on slaughtering one another. The overstraining of their sinews in their contortions, the cracking of their joints in dislocations, the compression of their chest-ribs in their pressing together, made respiration and inspiration difficult to these goodly heroes, from the contraction of the general passages, caused by the violence of their exertions¹. In short, since the battle of Hercules,

half-encouraging, half-indignant, came from Grime's party. This added shame to his other passions, and threw an impulse of almost supernatural strength into him; he recovered his advantage, but nothing more; they twisted; they heaved their great frames against each other; they struggled; their action became rapid; they swayed each other this way and that; their eyes like fire; their teeth locked, and their nostrils dilated. Sometimes they twined about each other like serpents, and

twirled round with such rapidity, that it was impossible to distinguish them. Sometimes, when a pull of more than ordinary power took place, they seemed to cling together almost without motion, bending down until their heads nearly touched the ground, their cracking joints seeming to stretch by the effort, and the muscles of their limbs standing out from the flesh, strung into amazing tension."—*Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry*, second edit. p. 342.

laeé. Áct éna, ní deirneá tar eir gleaca Ércail, mic Amphitryonir, ocur Antei, mic Terrae, aen gleic ocur aen corraigeét a h-inra-mail rin, doig am po ba gaibteé in gleic rin, ocur po ba cruaid in corraideét, ocur po ba aghaide in impurgail po'n innur rin. Ocur dan nobtar cormaile cetráide na curad im éaríairne caic ar a ceile aca ir in uair rin: doig am nír cédráid ne Congal aen-fer d'a fórtad no ba imcongail po an innur rin, .i. ne met a menman, ocur ne h-uairige a aicenta, ocur dno ne h-oll-cetráid na n-Ulltaic ar fleétaib a rinnfer. Ocur dno, ní mo po cetráider tar Conall aen-fer d'a fórtad, no d'a imcongail 'mon innur rin, ne tige, ocur ne toídaét, ocur ne tul-buirbe na Tuairceptaic, ir a n-aigneá po h-oileá, ocur po aicreab ann, ocur ne digainneéta a duéara, ocur ne cetráide a ceneoil o nam-clandaib neptara, nithaá, nam-daide Neill, ocur beor a beir 'n-a mac aird-riú Érenn, .i. do baeban, mac Nimeda, mic Fergusa, mic Conaill, mic Neill Naigiallaig, mar fórgler an t-ugáir:

Aen bliadain ne h-ol meda
do baeban, mac Nimeda,
a cetair fícéá fuair debec
do boi Aed, mac Ainmirec.

Conad aipe rin, po cetráider tar Conall ar caic cuir ar na comfegad, gur ab do bodein commaidem, ocur po ba duéa buad-ugad caíca bága do bpeir, ocur corcar caíca caingne do commaidem; conad aipe rin, tucartair tren-cóir tarcuirneé, calma, comlaibir, cadat, comneir, cealg-baeálaide curad i ceir-agaid a colna do Chongal, co tarla tpeirín na tpeoda, ocur miobac na miócomairle,

¹ *The son of Amphitryon.*—This allusion shows that our author had access to Lucan or Statius, and that the Latin classics were known in Ireland in the middle ages. It is curious, however, his calling Hercules the son of Amphitryon.

cules, the son of Amphitryon¹, with Anteus, the son of Terra, no rencounter or wrestling like this had taken place, for thus indeed the struggle was dangerous, the rencounter hard, and the wrestling violent. And the heroes were of the same mind as regarded their contempt for each other at this time; for Congal did not think that any one would have been able to resist or withstand him in this manner, from the greatness of his magnanimity, and the haughtiness of his mind, and moreover, from the high notion of the Ultonians respecting the glory they derived from their ancestors. Nor did Conall brook it better that any man should resist or withstand him in this manner, in consequence of the firmness, distinction, and fierceness of the northerns, and from the feeling which had been nurtured, and which dwelt within him, and from the native dignity of his tribe, and from his notion of his descent from the splendid, puissant, warlike race of Niall, and moreover from his being the son of the monarch of Erin, viz., of Baedan, son of Ninnidh, son of Fergus, son of Conall, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, as the author testifies:

“One year to drink mead¹ (i. e. *to be in peace*)

Was Baedan, son of Ninnidh, *king*;

For four and twenty years of strife

Ruled Aedh, the son of Ainmire.”

Wherefore, taking every thing into consideration, Conall was of opinion, that he himself would gain the victory, for it was hereditary in him to gain the victory in every conflict, and to triumph in every struggle. Wherefore, he gave one mighty, insulting, brave, robust, subduing, dangerous twist of his body against Congal, so that the instigator

¹ *One year to drink mead.*—Clen bliab- am, &c., oo Baedan, i. e. A. D. 571.—He inform us that a king or chieftain was remarkable for drinking mead or playing chess, they give us to understand that he was succeeded in the year 572 by Aedh, the father of king Domhnall, the hero of this tale. When the ancient Irish writers enjoyed peace.

míðcomairle, ocur cioroi cometa celg ocur cotarrnaçta, ocur clæn-comað 'na cruinne rlaebairçtí ríe-ðæn, gur bo h-i a aghaid ba h-uachtaraç ne deprað na n-bul ip in çoiðeir çetaraða of a çionn, co raibe compað cuirp in cað-miled ap na ðomar h-i tulmaing na talman, o ríoeðaca a ðal co poimna a çean-mullaig; co clor po ceitrib arða in caða cruaid-iaçtað an çupaid ocur ceann cor-na-maç comeigin Congail, iar n-a ðineað ocur ap n-a çparçpað do neapç-cora nithaça mic bpað-buillibig ðaebain. ða i n-ecmaing na pe rin, at cuala Conan Rob cnead-opnaðac comeigin Congail, ocur po innraig go mac bpað-buillibig ðaebain, ocur ip amlaib po boi ríoe ina borb-ruaig bobba of cind Congail, ag triall ocur ac tinopçetal a cengail ocur a cruad-cuibrigçe do çrior a clóidim, ocur do rçiaçpaç a rçeite. Tucapçair eim Conan cruaid-buille clóidim pa ceapç-comair a çraide do Conall; cid epaçe nup motaig mac borb-neapçmar ðaebain an cruaid-builli clóidim rin no gur compoinneçair a cliað ocur a çraide ap cepte do, gur bo rçeçe comoplaççe corp an çupaid ag tuicim co talmain.

Conað i cobair Conain ap Congal, ocur corpuigeçe Conaill ocur Congaill ap Cað Muige Rað conuicci rin.

Açe cena, ni ríaçe leir in ða ríg-miled, .i. le Conan ocur le Congal, corçap Conaill do commaibem, in tan do ríaçe clóidem coburpa caic gur in cað-laçair cetna rin, .i. Cellac, mac Mailcoba, do cornam cind Conaill nup na çupabaib, periu no berpup a corçap çap clað ríoir ó na rluagaib; oip ip e aipmib ughair naç ap commaibed corçap aen laic ð'ápb çlanna Neill ap laçair in laite rin,

¹ *In a mighty huge arch.* — Ina borb-rouaig bobba.—The word rouaig or ruag certainly signifies an *arch* or *bow*, though it is not so explained in any published Irish Dictionary. This appears obvious

from the fact, that in the best MSS. the rainbow is called rouaig neime, i. e. the arch of heaven. The word is also applied to the arch of a bridge, as in the following example: Fil opoicet ac on caçpaig

instigator of the battle, the contriver of the evil design, the receptacle of treachery and perverseness, and the fell cause of all the slaughter, was laid supine with his face up to view the clouds, in the wide four-quartered firmament over him; so that the length of this warrior's body was impressed in the surface of the ground from the extremity of his heel to the top of his head; so that the hard warrior-shrieks and violent groans of Congal, when laid *thus* prostrate by the robust and vigorous effort of the heavy-striking son of Baedan, were heard throughout the four quarters of the battle. At this time Conan Rod heard the loud groans of Congal in this strait, and he approached the heavy-striking son of Baedan, who was then bent in a mighty huge arch¹ over Congal, ready to tie and fetter him with the girdle of his sword, and the bands of his shield. Conan made a hard blow of his sword at Conall exactly opposite his heart, and the furious-puissant son of Baedan did not feel the blow until it had cleft his breast and heart in twain, so that the body of the hero fell to the ground in one wide-gaping wound!

So far the rencounter of Conall and Congal, and the aid of Conan to Congal in the Battle of Magh Rath.

Howbeit, the two royal heroes, Conan and Congal, had not time to exhibit the trophy [*head*] of Conall, before the aiding sword of all, namely, Cellach, the son of Maelcobha, came up to the scene of the contest to defend the head of Conall against the heroes, and prevent them from carrying it off as a trophy eastwards across the mound from the hosts. Authors relate that during that day none of the great descendants of Niall were slain and exulted over, to whom Cellach

ῥῖν, μαρμαρ εἰς τὴν ἰστίαν οὐρανὸν (in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire), fol. 107. The term ῥῖν-ῥῖν is often applied to a circular-headed doorway.—See the same MS. fol. 156.

rin, gan Cellac do cornam a cind, ocur d'ante a fobbad, do reir
mar porgleir in e-ugbar :

Nir tuir níg na puirpe réid
'ra laite rin, do claind Neill,
nac coirpenad Cellac cam
a corcar co n-a digail.

An tan at connac Congal Cellac ag a iarmoiréct, ocur d'a
innraigib, no imgaib in e-inad rin, ocur no indraig inad ele 'nár
faoil ronn mar Chellac d'a coimpregra, no mal mar mac Maile-
coba da cuprachad. Oir ar ead ba cetráid do Congal, da com-
dunta cpo cadat na cat-latraig in aen inad air ocur ar a com-
dalta, nac bud pear aite a anpalta, na diogalta a deice na a
dimiada ar Domnall, na agna earbada fopba na n-Ulltac, .i. Cric
Conaill ocur Eogain, ocur Airgiall ar Cenel Conaill; conad aipe
rin, no atcuirertar cuingidect na cat-latraig ar Conan Rob pa
compregra Cellais. Cio pil ann tra, ba confadaid Cellac ina
Conan ag cothad ar a cind ir in cath-gleo rin, iar na imgabail
d'airb-nig Ulad, uair ba cpad cpaide le Cellac in po pa doig leir
do faer-clanda roiceneoil nept-cloinde Neill do cupracad do
Congal, an cein do beic rium ocur Conan ag compregra a ceile.
Conid ann rin no canurtar Cellac, ar fuiréac feiceamain d'a
n-dligeann duir-bidba deirb-fiacá duir-rí cothad ar mo cind-ra 'ra
cat-latair ri, uair bad luad lectrum le-ebangair leiréct
etir Congal ocur Conall tu, mad cor trarta. Amen éna, ní mar
gac ní do neoc a eigerpa do terangain gan tuig-ba, na a pior-capa
d'fpoiréin ar eicir itir, a Cellais, ar Conan. Baigim-rí briatár
ono, a níg-miled, nac d'ic t'palad, ina t'ainfiaca, ina t'ecraite,
canga-ra

^a *No king or dexterous chief had fallen.* that there was an older account of the
—Ní euir níg na puirpe réid.—This shows Battle of Magh Rath than the present.

lach did not come to prevent their heads from being carried away in triumph, and to revenge their wounds, as the author testifies :

“No king or dexterous chief had fallen^m
On that day, of the race of Niall,
Whose trophy Cellach, the comely,
Did not protect and revenge.”

When Congal perceived Cellach in pursuit of him, and approaching him, he avoided the place where he was, and sought another whither he thought a bulwark like Cellach would not *come to* respond to him, or a chief like the son of Maelcobha would not subdue him ; for Congal thought that should he and his foster-brother [*Cellach*] become the centre of attraction to the brave encircling bulwarks on the field of battle, that there would not be a man to revenge his animosities, or to avenge *the loss of* his eye, or his indignities on Domhnall, or to dispute the curtailment of the Ultonian territory, namely, the countries of Tir Conaill and Tir Eoghain, and Airghialla, with the Cinel Conaill ; wherefore he left the leadership of the battle-field to Conan Rod for the purpose of responding to Cellach ; but Cellach was more furious than Conan in pressing on the combat, after the king of Ulster had fled him, for it was vexation of heart to Cellach to think of the number of the noble free-born mighty race of Niall which he thought would be discomfited by Congal, while he himself and Conan should be contending with each other. Then Cellach said, “ It is the waiting of a debtor who owes a bitter enemy just debts, for thee to wait for me on this battle-field, for thou hast just now very unjustly and unfairly interposed between Congal and Conall.” “ Be it so indeed, O Cellach,” said Conan ; “ a person should not act in the ordinary way to save his lord from destruction, or to defend his true friend in difficulty ; and I swear by my word, O royal warrior, that it was not to revenge thy animosity, thy trespasses, or thy enmity that I have come
against

tanga-ra pìot-ra a pìg-nìad, iná no còtaiger ar do cìnd ir in lo
 bağa-ra aniu. ðaigim-rì briaðar eim, a pìg-mìled, a Conain, ar
 Cellac, mana ica-ra t'anpòlta no t'anpìacà pìom-ra ir in coim-
 ergail caða ra ir in tpað ra, noða n-icpaib dia eir co epic cinnce,
 coitcinn, ceim-eirergi caic. ðioð a pìr agab-ra, ar Conan, nað
 curtar pòrrpnaic ar pèinded, uair ni baig briaðra agab-ra báiter
 pèr-glonna pìr-laið, ar Conan, ocur ni fuachad fuigill aiteir palad
 ar ercparaid eoir ðaibela do gner. Ro pètar-ra imòrro in ni
 rin, a Chonain, ar Cellac, ocur ðno, bioð a pìor agab-ra, an ti d'a
 n-òligar an ðail, ocur ar a n-agurètar ðeirb-þiaca, ar ðior ocur
 ar ðligib do urnaidè pe h-iarraid na h-agra, ocur pe pèr fuar-
 aibe na pala; ocur ðno, ag po cucat-ra an ced urcar, ar pe, ag
 cpaðhad na cpairige d'a h-aðcor uada gaða cept-ðirge co Conan.
 Tangadar triar briaðar baðac, briaðemla, ðretnac do cet-muinn-
 ter Conain etir e ocur an t-urðcor, .i. tri meic ðerbbriaðar a aðar,
 .i. tri meic lðail, mic Aili Meaðruaid, .i. Reir, ocur Ul, ocur Ar-
 tur, a n-anmanna; ocur tangadur a triur co n-ðeiriðetar ðruim
 ar ðruim ar cept-belaid Conain etir é ocur an t-urðcor. Ro peo-
 lad ocur po pèded cpuað-urðcor cpairige Cellaið cuca ceða cept-
 ðirge, gur bo ðoirri ðebða ðian-cpècaca ðruinneada na m-ðre-
 nac, ar g-coimèpègad cuipr ceða curad tria n-a céile, ocur ar
 pcoltad a pceit ar a pcat-ðruind. Aðt cena, nìr toirmepe top-
 gainn, tupaip, na teðtaipècaca do cpuað-urðcor cpairige Cellaið
 an triur rin do tuicim d'a tpen-guin, no gur gab ginnì na plega
 gneim gabad i Conan ar cept-lar a inne ocur a inaðar, ar pcoltad
 a pceit. Ir ann rin cuimniger Conan a peact pìogða po-gurmar,
 ocur po gab in cat-cpairèc cetna, ocur aðcuipir i ar culad co
 Cellac,

^a *Person of whom the retribution is due.*—
 An ti d'a n-òligar an ðail.—This is in the
 technical language of the Brehon Laws.

^o *Three sons of Idhal, the son of Aili.*—
 Tri mic lðail mic Aille.—Are these
 ideal personages?

against thee, or that I have opposed thee this day on which I have sworn." "I also swear by my word, O royal warrior, O Conan," said Cellach, "that unless thou wilt pay thy animosities or debts to me in this contest on this occasion, thou shalt never pay them hereafter, until the general fate which awaits all after their resurrection." "Be it known to thee," said Conan, "that a hero cannot be dismayed, and that thy threatening words will not extinguish the manly valour of a true champion," said Conan, "and it is not abusive language that will always revenge spite on an enemy amongst the Gaels." "I know that thing well, O Conan," said Cellach, "and be it likewise known to thee, that the person of whom the retribution is due", and of whom just debts are demanded, it behoves him, and he is bound to petition in seeking the demand, and *to seek it* of the man who owes the spite; and here, therefore, is the first shot towards thee," said he, brandishing his spear, and casting it directly at Conan. Three affectionate British relatives of Conan's chief people came between him and the shot, namely, the three sons of his father's brother, to wit, the three sons of Idhal, the son of Ailli° Meadhruadh, namely, Res, Ul, and Arthur by name, and the three came so that they stood back to back before Conan, and between him and the shot. The vigorous shot of the spear of Cellach was directed and driven straight towards them, so that the breasts of these Britons were battle-doors of severe wounds, the body of each champion being respectively pierced, their shields which defended their breasts having been cleft asunder. Howbeit, the intended object of the vigorous shot of Cellach's spear was not checked by the fall of these three, occasioned by the great wounds it inflicted, nor until the head of the spear dangerously entered Conan in the very middle of his entrails and bowels, his shield having been cleft. Then Conan, calling to mind his own great regal prowess, took the same battle-spear and cast it back at

Cellac, co tangadar triar togaide, tul-borb, tuairceptaic do cined Aengusa, mic Conaill, .i. Eochaidh, ocur Anluan, ocur Ailgenan, a n-anmanna, ocur tangadar na triur co n-beribetar dnuim ar dnuim, ar cept-belaib Cellais, eir e ocur Conan; ocur no dinged, ocur no deg-jeolad cruath-urcar cuca caea cept-dinge, gur toll-cregeirtair in triur tul-borb Tuairceptaic, eir corraib ocur cae-rcetib; eir tra aet, nri b'urcar indinge do cruath-erairig Conain an triur rin do tuicim d'a trom-guin, co n-dechaid in daigir diubraicet eir eir imcail imfulaing icetapaic cae-rcet comner caea an caem-cupaid Cellais, mic Maicoba, gur creagdarair eir na troigte ocur i calmain. Nri ba ceannraigte Cellac an triur rin do tuicim gan anad gan fuirec ina fiaonaire, ocur nri fecurtar do trom-guin a troigted ag innraigib a eircaet, ocur for; nri ciunaide Conan ag innraigib Cellais a muinter do marbad ocur a trom-guin ar eir. Rucrat da eicim ederoma, fir-luata, i cept-comdail a cele, mar do raigir, ocur mar do paraigir, ocur mar do baeglaigir da brodcion borba, biartaide, bodbae, a con-maera coimeda ar g-coimclireb d'a coin-iallaib cuirige ne h-ainjerce a n-aicenta. Do cuaid in compac a h-inad ederana na h-eadarraire iartain, co nar cuimgetor a cairde na a ceiterinn a ciunugad ina a ceannugad, a cobair ina a comfotaet, ne bpuet, ocur ne buirbe, ocur ne biartamlact na m-beithre m-bodba rin, ag combrireb compaic ocur comlainn ar a ceile, lair na glepaib garra, gloinn-mera, gaibteca gairced, no gabratar i cendaib, ocur i caebarrpaib caema cumdaigte a ceile, gur bo lion-brat ledaic, lan-dercc ceinn-berci comgela gaia cupad, do coimeagar cloidem ocur erairec ar a ceile; gur ab e airmid ugdair gur b'intoibecta d'ferair

^p *Race of Aengus, the son of Conall.* — Conall Gulban.—See genealogical table of Do cined Aengusa mic Conaill.—That the descendants of Conall Gulban, at the is, of the race of Aengus Gundat, son of end of this volume.

Cellach; upon which three distinguished impetuous northerns of the race of Aengus, the son of Conall^p, namely, Eochaidh, Anluan, and Ailghenan, advanced, and stood one behind the other, directly opposite Cellach, and between him and Conan; but the vigorous shot of Conan was aimed and directed straight towards them, so that the three fierce northerns were pierced, both bodies and shields, yet the shot of the hard spear of Conan was not diverted from its line of motion by the fall of these three men by its wounds, nor was it stopped until the projected blade passed through the narrow lower extremity of the strong warlike shield of the comely hero Cellach, son of Maelcobha, and piercing his feet stuck in the ground. Cellach did not become the more tame on account of the rapid and sudden fall of these three in his presence; he did not look to the deep wounds of his feet in attacking his enemy; nor was Conan the calmer in facing Cellach, because that his people had been wounded and killed in the first place. They made two light and rapid springs towards each other, as two fierce, monstrous, blood-thirsty hounds would advance on, overpower, and endanger their watchful keepers from the animosity of their nature, after having broken the thongs that bound them. The battle soon after went beyond interposition or intermeddling, so that their friends or kernes^q were unable to quiet or calm them, or assist or relieve them, such was the impetuosity, fierceness, and dexterity of these sanguinary bears in pressing the conflict and combat on each other, with the fierce, vigorous, dangerous passes of valour which they made at each other's heads and beautiful defensive helmets, so that the bright headpiece of both heroes was *like* a mangled, blood-stained piece of linen, from their mutual hacking of swords and spears

^q *Kernes* were the light-armed ancient VIII., written A. D. 1543, by the Lord Irish soldiers. For a curious description Deputy St. Ledger, see note I at the end of the Irish kernes, in the reign of Henry of this volume.

d'fearaib Erienn ocur Alban po daigin feiémie, ocur fogluma, ocur
 aitéiri peime, ocur po-ppertail, ocur ppeagarta na rig-miled rin
 ari apoile, pe cruar, ocur pe crodact, ocur pe cobradact a
 g-comloinn; pe treire, ocur pe cruime, ocur pe talcairect a
 d-crodac; pe h-oll act, ocur pe h-oibni, ocur pe h-aéloime na
 h-imgona; pe h-eime, ocur pe h-uploime, ocur pe h-arnaidect an
 imbuaile; pe dlur, ocur pe diocraect, ocur pe duabride deabta
 na deiri deg-laeé rin; uair nri b'aimirpéc Ulaio ocur allmarais
 co m-baó nimpá buó naen, da maó é Cellac concuclairi; rin
 Erienn dno, ba lán-deimín leo-rídein co m-baó e Congal do cloid-
 ríde, da maó e Conan concucluirí. Conaó aipe rin, po fuirigetar
 Eriennaig ocur allmarais cen imbualad d'fobairt na d'imluad
 etorpa, cenmoéa Congal Claen nama; gíó eirídein, nri ba ciunaide
 caé-laítreca Congal ag innraige uí Ainnirpéc, do digail a d'erce,
 ocur a dímiada, caé do comrcur d'a g-comlannaib, pe compecchad
 an comraic rin.

Imchurá na deiri deg-laeé rin, o tur a d-crodac co dírcur na
 deabta, conaó raibe ag céctar díb rin nri in pe rin imfopcrarí po
 b'inairne, na cindeó comloinn po b'inaigna, na po b'incommairme do
 caé-miledaib ar a céile, cenmoéa ced-urcár Chellaig ar Conan,
 ocur in t-inad in po fuirpéó ríub-gíinne ríleigí Conaín da céd-urcáir
 ar Cheallaé. Act éna, ní bí duine ar domán gan a fód urdaltá
 aircénnta oideóa d'urmarí, gín go raibe taáa, tapaid, ná eirbarde
 enigma aip, do ríer mar fopgler an t-ugóar, amail nem-epert-
 marí:

Tíí fobáin naé pecántar, 7c.

Conaó aipe rin, caé duine d'ana d'erb-cinnid a fód urdaltá aip-
 cinnití oideóa d'urmarí, cen co raibe taáa, tapaid, na uirparbaid
 enigma aip, teagaid bedg-arrídeáa báir aga buairpéó, ocur aga
 b'raé-aimirugad, do ríer mar ír comaréa cinnití pe cain d'erbaid na
 caingní

spears on each other ; so that authors relate that it was worth the while of the men of Erin and Alba to come to observe, and study, and imitate the parryings, guardings, and responses of these royal heroes to each other, such was their hardiness, valour, and firmness in the combat; the strength, weight, and puissance of their fight; the expertness, rapidity, and activity of their fighting; the swiftness, readiness, and severity of their blows; the closeness, diligence, and vehemence of the struggle of the two brave heroes. For the Ultonians and foreigners did not doubt, but that they themselves would be triumphant should Cellach be defeated; and the men of Erin were certain that Congal would be defeated if Conan should be conquered. Wherefore the men of Erin and the foreigners desisted from the battle to look on at the combat between them, except Congal Claen alone; but he was not the calmer in making his way through the battle-field to attack the grandson of Ainmire, to revenge *the loss of* his eye and his indignity upon him, because all the others had ceased from their encounters to look on at the combat.

With respect to these two great heroes, from the beginning of the contest to its termination, neither of them had, during all that time, a superiority worth mentioning or an advantage worthy of being claimed or boasted of by warriors, except the first shot made by Cellach at Conan, and the injury inflicted by the head of Conan's spear on the place it struck Cellach in the first shot. But as the author testifies, and as we have said before, there is not a man in the world for whom his certain and fixed place of death is not pre-ordained, even though he should have no want of vigour, or lack of valour :

“ Three things cannot be shunned,” &c.

Wherefore, every one for whom his certain and fixed place of death is predestined, even though he should have no want of vigour or lack of valour, is visited *there* by the startling omens of death
which

caingni rín, .i. aithrēna ocur fōna aithrēti Conain ír in compac rín, d'ar fār, ocur d'ar iadurtar poit-nell porg-diberēta padairc tar imdoirrib a imcairi. Aetherait apoile gur ba h-iat arō-nāim Erenn do bēped rōnn a padairc ocur a ruirc o Conan, do cobair Cellair ír in compac rín. Aēt cēna nī h-amlaib rín fuaradair augdair cuma ocur comfuided an comraic rín i laf-gleandair leabair, ocur i lleimib lē-gealaib līterōa lan-comgīdī gāca caingni, aēt gōr ab iad eirlimī, imī, ocur inatāir Conain ar na cīatērad ocur ar na comēollad do ced-urcōr Cellair ír in compac, ocur tairi, ocur tairn-nella d'ā aithrīgad ar a lōr, d'ārī fār, ocur dār iadurtar fōrbairc fōrtēide, fīrōrōcā dār fuinneōgaib fōrōoirīde faircēna na plāta.

Cīd trāct, ó po aithrīgītar Cellac ar Conan a bēit co dall-pōrcaī dīradairc, nī dērnad rīum aēt a tēachtad ocur a tīm-cēllad, a fōrtēced, ocur a arn-airlēc po comur ocur fa comdīl-maine a cūirp, gur tūit in cat-mīlīb Conan ina lēthīb leadaircī, gur ob ina laigī laech-mīlēb po cīrīad ocur po colg-dīcennad Conan la Cellach.

Conad é rín aen compac ír fērr imīrīc eolair ar cat Muigī Rat. Dēitħīr on doib, ar ír dōig ír do dīrcur debēta na dēri deg-lacē rín rucad ba tīrīan a n-ērōdmar ocur a n-engnuma o allmarācāib mar at connadair cēnd Conain 'gā cīatēad ocur a cōrcar gā cōmmandem oc Cellac, do rēir mar fōrglēr in t-ugdār:

Do cuair d' allmarācāib a n-ghrain
a h-airēlī marbēta Conain,
mar buō é a n-engnum uile
do cuirēta a corp aen-duine.

Ar

¹ *Omens and pangs.*—Many similar anecdotes are told in different parts of Ireland, which tend to show that the ancient Irish

believed in fatality or predestination.—See also p. 172, note ^q, where there is another strong allusion to the belief in

which disturb and attack him, as was illustrated here by the omens and pangs^{*} which attacked Conan in this combat, for whom a whirling cloud grew and closed around the inlets of his sight and observation. Others assert that it was the chief saints of Erin that took away his sight and power of his eyes from Conan, to assist Cellach in this combat. But, however, it was not thus that authors have found^{*} the form and arrangement of this combat on the poetical pages of books, and in the plain context of the written narrative of each event; but that it was the bowels and entrails of Conan that were riddled and pierced by Cellach's first shot in the combat, and that in consequence mists and death-clouds came upon him, which closed a dark and gloomy veil over the open inlet windows of that prince's sight.

Howbeit, when Cellach observed that Conan was dim-sighted and blind, he did nothing but close upon him and press him by the mighty force of his arms and body, so that the warrior Conan fell down a mangled corse, and as he lay, a conquered champion, he was mutilated and beheaded by Cellach.

This was the best combat which the learned mention during the Battle of Magh Rath, and the reason is, that it is certain that it was in consequence of the combat between these two great heroes that the foreigners lost the two-thirds of their bravery and vigour, when they saw the head of Conan shook, and exultingly carried off as a trophy by Cellach, as the author testifies :

“ From the foreigners departed their valour
 After the killing of Conan,
 As if the valour of them all
 Had been centred in the body of one man.”

It

predestination.

^{*} *Not thus that authors have found.*—Ní
 h-amlaio fín fuapaoap augaoap.—This

passage proves that the writer had several
 and conflicting accounts of this battle, from
 which he drew up the present account.

Ar ann rin do ríáctatar da cónaí cleap-armaí do luí
feirme íceit níg Ulad do cáiteam a g-coimpeirge pe Cellac, .i.
Fearmorc Miadaí ocup Eicneac Oirgiallac, ocup tucrat a
b-íeom i n-einfeact, ocup do íaiteadar da íleag go g-caelaib a
g-crann i Cellac, gur bo leir inormaí na n-arm tpe eppanaib na
n-álad ír in taeb ba faide o n-a gor-gomaib. Pírtailir Cellac na
cneaí rin, gur íagaib a íleapa go íleag-toll ocup a cinn go crec-
naígti, ocup a cuip comíreagta, ocup do rinni corair cró do na
cupaíab d'a eir.

Ro eirgeator íarum diar cónaí cruí-aloimn eilí do cáiteam a
coimpeirge pe Cellac, .i. Orcup Áta in eic, ocup Murchad, mac
Maenai, ocup ro íaiteadar na íleaga daingni duaibríua inn, gur
b'ionraimail cleití tpe cúpcair peanna na íleag tpe an ílior
araill do Chellac. Áitir Cellac na cneaí rin d'ímlaib aélaim,
aimíneac, ocup do ígaimnir íeóda armaí, ainíreanda, ocup do
cuip a cinn ír in corair caíta cedna. Íar rin íaimic Riagan, ní Ruir
Cille, ocup Duban Duiblinne, cup in laíair i m-boi Cellac, ocup
cangadar le da íuin ainíne ainíaríaríaca íair in einfeact; ro
íreagar Cellac comáin a gona do íac aen díb. Íar rin íaimic
Trealmíac na tpeoda ocup Cearnac Cor-íada ír in caí-laíair
cedna co Cellac, ocup tugadar da íuin ceapra, comdaingne ar an
caí-míleí, ocup da íoríam ainíaríaríaca ar an aipríb, ocup da
cruaíab-béim

¹ *Fermorc, Miadhach, and Eigneach, the Airgiallian.*—Fearmorc, Miadaí, ocup Eigneach Oirgiallach.—These are not to be found in the Annals or Pedigrees of the Clanna Rudhraighe.

² *Orchur, of Ath an eich, and Murchadh, the son of Maenach.*—Orcup Áta an eic, ocup Murchad, mac Maenai. — The Editor has not been able to find any ac-

count of this Orchur in any other authority. There are many places in Ireland called *Ath an eich*, which signifies *ford of the horse*, but nothing remains to determine which of them is here referred to.

³ *Riagan, king of Ros Cille.*—Riagan ní Ruir Cille. The Editor has not been able to find this Riagan in the authentic Annals, and therefore suspects that he is a

It was then that two chieftains, dexterous at arms of those who attended on the shield of the king of Ulster, came on to expend their anger on Cellach, namely, Fermorc, Miadhach, and Eigneoh the Airgiallian'. They made their attack together, and thrust two spears to the narrow parts of their handles into Cellach, so that the joining of the iron to the shafts of the spears was to be seen through the extremities of the wounds in the side farthest from the strikers. Cellach responded to these thrusts, so that he left their sides pierced with his spear, their heads wounded, and their bodies rent, and he afterwards made a gorey heap *of carnage* of these heroes.

After this, two other chieftains of beautiful form rose up to expend their rage on Cellach, namely, Orcur, of Ath an eich", and Murchadh, the son of Maenach, and they thrust their firm and terrible spears into him, so that the points of the spears passed through Cellach's other side, like stakes [thorns?] through a bulrush [cupcarr?]. Cellach revenged these wounds by an expert and venomous exchange of wounds, and by a fierce and furious onset, and laid their heads into the same carnage of battle. After this Riagan, king of Ros Cille', and Dubhan, of Dublin", advanced to the spot where Cellach was, and inflicted two fierce and terrible blows at him together; and Cellach returned to each the favour of his wound. After this Trealmhach of the Fight* and Cernach the Longshanked' advanced to Cellach to the same spot of contention, and made two direct firm blows at the warrior, and two tremendous thrusts at the chieftain, and two hard-levelling strokes at the

fictitious character. It should have been mentioned in a note, which was accidentally omitted, on the word "bulrush" above, that in all the Irish dictionaries cupcarr is explained *hair*, a *bulrush*; but it is to be feared, from the simile above made, that the word had some other meaning.

"Dubhan of Dublin.—Duhan DuBlinne,
IRISH ARCH. SOC. 6.

Dubhan of Dublin is also probably a fictitious character, at least no other monument of his existence has been discovered but this story.

* *Trealmhach of the Fight*.—Tpealmaic na Tpooc, is not to be found in the authentic Irish annals.

' *Cernach the Longshanked*.—Ceapnach

cruað-béim earraḡarḡa do'n tḡén-ḡear. Fḡitailḡ Cellac na cneada ḡin, ḡo ḡor ḡaḡailḡ na d-tamḡnaib ḡḡailte ḡcioḡ-ḡoinḡte iad, ocuḡ do cuḡ a cḡodu ḡr in coraḡ caḡa cetḡa. Rangadap iartain na ḡeaḡt Mailmaḡḡniu ocuḡ Dairbḡr, mac Dorrḡmaḡ, ḡiḡ Fḡangc ḡr in caḡ-laḡaḡ ceḡna co Cellac, ocuḡ tucadap oḡt n-ḡona tḡici d'a tḡoirnead, ocuḡ oḡt d-toimḡdeana teanna d'a tḡraethad. Ro cḡomurḡar Cellac a cḡenn, ocuḡ ḡo fḡuailḡ dan an ḡḡail fḡuḡ an anḡorlann, ocuḡ ḡo tḡearḡarḡ na laeic d'a luaitḡ-beimeanduib, ḡor bo bḡorḡa boḡḡa, bioḡ-aimḡeac, ḡac colḡ ocuḡ ḡac cḡuaḡ-ḡa, ocuḡ ḡor bo combḡuḡiḡ ḡac corḡ, ocuḡ ḡor bo coimḡciorḡḡa ḡac taeb, ocuḡ ḡuḡ bo h-iaḡ na cḡod no cḡomḡbada cetḡa ḡor cḡomluid ḡor cula do ḡuḡuḡ, uaiḡ ḡuḡurḡar Cellac a ḡ-cḡinn ap na ḡ-comaḡ-ḡem, ocuḡ a ḡ-corḡail ap na ḡ-commaideḡ laḡ co h-aḡm i ḡaibe ḡiḡ Eḡeann, ocuḡ ḡo tḡairḡeanaḡarḡa a tḡear ḡan tḡuireal d'a tḡiaḡ, ocuḡ a beaḡan baḡail d'a bḡaḡaḡ, ocuḡ aḡuḡuḡ fḡein aḡ dion ocuḡ aḡ duiḡ-fḡeiteḡ ḡceitḡ ḡiḡ Eḡenn ap a h-aḡli.

ba ḡr in la ḡin do ḡala do bannḡraḡt Ultain Lam-ḡada, ḡiḡ Chaeill na ḡ-Curad, fḡuḡ a n-abarḡar Oirḡear 'ḡan am ḡa, aḡ de-num ḡluccaeḡna ḡoilcḡ ocuḡ ḡoḡraicḡ i n-Dun Admaḡn i d-Tir O' m-Bḡearail, ocuḡ ap amlaid ḡo bof mac fḡuḡ an baile ina obloir, ocuḡ ina eirḡeḡt, .i. Cuanna, mac Ultain Lam-ḡada, ocuḡ ḡo ba dalta do ḡiḡ Eḡenn é, .i. do Domnall, mac Aeda, mic Ainḡirec, no ḡo d-tuḡad aicḡi ḡuḡ bo h-oimḡid e, ocuḡ an tan tuḡad, a dub-ḡad ḡuḡ dul do tḡiḡ a aḡar, ap ḡuḡ mḡad laḡ an ḡiḡ dalta oimḡide do

Cop-ḡada, is not to be found in the authentic annals, and is probably a fictitious personage.

^aSeven Mailmaḡḡne's.—Na ḡechḡ Mailmaḡḡniu.—The Editor has found no account of them in any other authority.

^aCaill na ḡ-Curadh.—Now the barony of Orior, in the east of the county of Armagh.

Probus, in the second book of his Life of St. Patrick, calls this territory *Regio Orientalium*, which is a literal translation of its usual Irish name Cḡioḡ na n-Oirḡear. It was so called because it was in the east of the country of Oirḡialla.

^bTir O m-Bḡeasail.—This territory is frequently called also Clann Breasail. It

the mighty man. Cellach responded to these wounds, and left them mangled, mutilated trunks, and cast their heads into the former heap *of carnage*. After this the seven Mailmaighne's^a and Dairbre, the son of Dornmar, king of the Franks, advanced to the same spot of contention to fight Cellach, and quickly inflicted eight wounds to pull him down, and eight firm blows to subdue him. Cellach stooped his head, and pressed the fight on the unequal number, and so plied the heroes with his rapid strokes, that their swords and hard darts were a bloody, broken heap, and every one of their bodies was bruised, and every side mangled, and they were not the same heads or representatives that had come first that returned back again, for Cellach carried off their heads with him after having counted them, and their trophies after having exulted over them, to where the king of Erin was, and exhibited the fruits of his honourable exploits to his lord, and the inconsiderable injury he had received to his relative, and he afterwards remained protecting the king of Erin and attending on his shield.

On this day it happened that the women of Ultan the Longhanded, king of Caill na g-Curadh^a, which is now called Oirthear, were preparing a bath for washing and bathing, at Dun Adhmainn, in Tir O m-Breasail^b, and the son of the proprietor of the place, namely, Cuanna, son of Ultan Lamhfhada, was an idiot and an orphan. He had been as a foster-child with the king of Erin, Domhnall, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, until it was discovered that he was an idiot; but when this was observed, he was told to go home to his father's house,

is shown on an old map of Ulster, preserved in the State Paper Office, as situated in the north-east of the county of Armagh, and bounded on the north by Lough Neagh, on the west by the Upper Bann, on the south by Magennis's country of

Iveagh, and on the north-east and east by the territory of Killulta, now included in the county of Down. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Turlogh Brassilogh O'Neill was chief of this territory.

John E. Kelly

do beir aige. A dubairt imorpo a leap-matair pe Cuanna dul tar ceann cuile connad do cum an poileid an la rin. Do chuaib iarum Cuanna po'n g-coill, ocur tuc leir cual do maercán, ocur do éirionfluic, ocur do bair beirte, fuair a latachaib ocur in ot-pachaib, ocur do cuir forr an teinneó an chuail, ocur ger b'ole an teinneó poime, no baó meara iarom. Ole an turcupéa an cual tuccair leat, a Chuanna, for na mna, ocur ar cubaib cor-mail fuit fein; ocur a triuag! ar riad, ni tu an mac pangur a leap ann ro anu, aét mac do cuingenad le a átairi ocur le a oide ir in lo baga ra, uair atá Congal co n-a Ulltaib ocur go n-a allmu-racaib d'á marbad ocur d'á muóuóad pe pe laité, ocur do t'átair-pi rainic catugad an laoi ané, ocur ni feadamair-ni an terna arf no nac d-terno. Ro siappaib Cuanna cia do bepad eolur dam-ra co Mag Rat? Ar beg an meirneac duic-piu eolur do bpeir ann, ar riad, .i. dul co h-lobar Chinn Coice, mic Neactain, fpir a paitep lobar éinn traga an tan ra, ocur po geóa plict paibbir na roch-aide ann, ocur lean go Mag Rat e.

Rainic Cuana poime ina peim no-peata ar plioct paibbir na rlog, co rainicc Mag Rat, ocur at conairc na cata comhpora ceétpada ag coimeirge i g-ceann a éile. A m-batar fir Eneann ann at concadur an t-oen duine d'á n-ionnpoige ir in mag a n-iap-dear gaáa n-dipeac, ocur po fuiridret fpir gur aitémgetar e. Cuanna obloir, ol fear dib, Cuanna oinmib ann, ar an dapa fer. Ni po beg d'adbor fuirid ann, ar an tpep fear. Gerri beg tpat, rainicc Cuanna go h-airni a poibe níg Eneann. Fearair an níg failte fpir. Maie, a anam, a Chuanna, ar pe, cid ima tangair cugainn anu? Do congnam leat-ra, a aipd-pi, har Cuanna, ocur
do

* *Iobhar Chinn Tragha*.—lobar Chinn Trága.—This is the present Irish name of the town of Newry, situated in the south-

west of the county of Down, and is well known in every part of Ireland where the Irish language is spoken. It is understood

house, for the king did not think it becoming to have an idiot as a foster-son. His step-mother told Cuanna on this day to go for a bundle of fire-wood for the bath. Cuanna went to the wood and brought with him a bundle of green twigs, and of dried sticks, and the top branches of birch which he found in puddles and ordures, and put them on the fire; and though the fire had been bad before, it was worse after this. "The fire-wood thou hast brought with thee is a bad present, O Cuanna," said the women, "and it is becoming and like thyself; and alas!" said they, "thou art not the kind of a son we stand in need of having here to-day, but a son who would assist his father and his fosterer, on this day of battle; for Congal, with his Ultonians and foreigners, has been killing and overwhelming them these six days; and it was thy father's turn to fight yesterday, and we know not whether he has or has not survived." Cuanna asked, "Who will show me the way to Magh Rath?" "It requires but little courage in thee to find out the way thither," said they; "go to Iobhar Chinn Choiche mhic Neachtain, which is now called Iobhar Chinn Tragha^c, where thou shalt find the abundant track of the hosts, and follow it to Magh Rath."

Cuanna came forward in rapid course, on the strong track of the hosts, till he arrived at Magh Rath, where he saw the great forces of both parties attacking each other. As the men of Erin were there they saw one lone man in the plain approaching them exactly from the south-west, and they ceased till they recognized him. "He is Cuanna, the idiot," said one of them; "he is Cuanna, the fool," said a second man; "it was no small cause of waiting," said a third man. In a short time Cuanna came on to where the king of Erin was. The king bade him welcome. "Good, my dear Cuanna," said he;

to mean the *yew* at the head of the strand.— *Choiche*, is used in the Annals of the Four Masters, at the year 1236.

do trarḡairt ar Congal, cid comalta dam é. Ar coir duit-ri
cid a b'fearcara, bar níg Eneann, do cuio do'n cat ra do cruad-
ugad ina agaid, uair do marb Congal t'atair ar catugad an lae
ané. Ro h-imberḡad im Chuanna ag a cloirteét rin, ocur a
reab ro raib, tabair arm dam, a aib-ri, ocur briaetar dam go
n-dingebad fear comloinn ced d'á b-fuil i t'agaid aniu. Tugra-
cac gair mór panamaitt of aró ag cloirteét Chuana. Atbert
Cuanna ppiu, do beirim fám' bpeitir, ar re, dá d-teagmabair
airm no il-faeabair uplana agom, go n-digeolainn ar dpeim eigin
agaid panamad do deanum fum. Acc ior, ar Domnall, na tug
do t'uib no do t'aibe iad, ocur ag ro an dapa gai teilceti fuil
agam-ra duit, ocur 'r í an tpear pleag ar fearr ata i n-Eirinn í,
.i. an t-pleag a ta 'na farrad, ocur an ga Gearr Congail, oir ni
tabairtup urcor n-impaill do cectar dib. Gabar an oimio an
t-pleag, ocur cpaitir í i b-riadnairi an níg, ocur atbert co n-ding-
nad ect buib maib leir an níg di. Ionnoig go h-airm a b-fuil
Maeluin, mac Aeda beannan, mac níg deig-feiceamanta Dear-
muan, ag a b-fuilic a airm fein ocur airm a briaetar ro marbad
le Congal ar catugad na Cedaine ro do chuaid éorainn, uair ar
comalta duit fein é, ocur do béra fuilleb airm duit ar mo
ḡrad-ra, ocur ar mircair Congail. Ar ann rin painic Cuanna
poinic co h-airm i raibe Maeluin, mac Aeda beannan, ocur tug
fuilleb airm do i cétdir.

Ro eirig an lae laoir, laimtenac luat-gonac, ocur an beitir
beoda, brait-béimnuch, .i. Congal Claen, go d-tapla cuige Ceann-
faelad, mac Oilellae, ocur tug beim cuimrió cruaid-lebaitac
cloidim

^a *Maeluin, the son of Aedh Bennain.*—
Maeluin, mac Aeda beannán.—See
note ^v, pp. 22, 23.

^c *Cennfaeladh, the son of Oilell.*—Cenn-

faelad mac Oilellae.—He is well known
to the lovers of Irish literature as the
author of *Uraicept na n-Eigis*, or *Primer*
of the Bards, and as the commentator on

he; "wherefore hast thou come to us to-day?" "To assist thee, O monarch," said Cuanna, "and to lay Congal prostrate, though he is my foster-brother." "It behoves thee," said the monarch of Erin, "though thou knowest it not, to press thy share of this battle against Congal, for he slew thy father in yesterday's battle." Cuanna grew red as he heard this, and said, "Give me weapons, O monarch, and I pledge my word that I will repel any fighter of a hundred men, who is against thee this day." All gave a great shout of derision aloud on hearing Cuanna. Cuanna said to them, "I swear by my word," said he, "that if I had arms or edged weapons at hand, I would revenge on some of you your having mocked me." "Not so," said Domhnall; "take no heed or notice of them; and here is for thee the second missile javelin which I have *to spare*, and it is the third best spear in Erin, the other two being the spear which is along with it, and the javelin called Gearr Congail, for an erring shot cannot be given with either of them." The idiot took the lance and brandished it in the presence of the king, and said that he would achieve with it a deed which would be pleasing to the king. "Go," said the king, "to the place in which is Maelduin, the son of Aedh Bennain^d, the son of the good-protecting king of Desmond, for he has his own weapons and those of his brother, who was slain in last Wednesday's battle, and he is a foster-brother to thyself, and he will give thee more weapons for love of me and hatred of Congal." Then Cuanna went forward to the place where Maelduin, the son of Aedh Bennain, was, who gave him more weapons at once.

Now the robust, sanguine, rapid-wounding hero, and the lively, sure-striking bear, Congal Claen, went forth, and was met by Cennfaeladh, the son of Oilell^e, to whom he gave a mighty, hard-smiting stroke of his

certain laws, said to have been originally in the third century. His death is recorded in the Annals of Tighernach at the

cloíom do, gur bñir an catbarr, gur tearg an ceann po a comair
co n-urraim do'n inóinn ina foirleanmuin; áit ceana do tuitfead
Ceannfaelad

year 679. Copies of his Uraicept are preserved in various Irish MSS. of authority, as in the *Leabhar Buidhe Leacain*, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin (H. 2. 16.) and an ancient copy of his Commentary on King Cormac's Laws is preserved in a vellum MS. in the Library of the Duke of Buckingham, at Stowe, of which Dr. O'Connor gives a minute account in his Catalogue. But it is to be regretted that Dr. O'Connor, who had no vernacular knowledge of the Irish language, has entirely mistaken the meaning of an interesting passage relating to the poet Cennfaeladh, occurring in that valuable MS. It appears to have been taken from an ancient version of the Battle of Magh Rath, for it mentions in nearly the very words of this text, how Cennfaeladh lost a portion of his brain in the battle, the consequence of which was that his intellect became more acute, and his memory more retentive. But Dr. O'Connor, not conceiving that there was any thing wonderful in the matter, translates the word *innóinn*, which means *brain*, i. e. *the matter of the brain*, by the word unskilfulness (by a figure of speech which looks very unnatural); and the word *depmair*, which is still used in every part of Ireland to signify *forgetfulness*, he metamorphoses into Dermot, a man's name, thus changing one of the three wonderful events which the bards constantly recorded as having

happened at the Battle of *Magh Rath*, into an occurrence about which there seems nothing remarkable.

I shall here quote the entire passage, as far as it relates to Cennfaeladh, as it is decyphered and translated by Dr. O'Connor.

"Cocc don liubharr Daire Zubran
ocur aimper do aimper Domnall mc.
Aeda mc. Ainmíreach ocu pepra do
Cenofaela mc. Aill. Ocu tac. a oen-
ma a hincino do bein a cenn chinofaela
i k. Maige Rath.

"Ceopa buaioh in k. a rin .i. maimo
ar Congal in a gae ria n Domnall in a
fhipinoe ocu Suibne geilt do bul ne
geitacht ocu a incinn depmair do bein
a cino Cinofaela i k. Maige Rath.

"Ir e in f. annas buaioh maimo ar
Congal in a gae ne n-Domnall ina fi-
pinoe, uair buaioh maimo ar in anpiper
riar an ripen.

"Ir e in f. ar nabuaioh Suibne Geilt
do bul ne geitacht .i. ar ar pacairbh do
laiohibh ocu do rgeleib ag appit: each
o rin ille.

"Ir e an f. annasbuaioh a incinn
depmair do bein a cino cinofaela; uair
ir ann do righneó a leigar i cuaim ope-
cain i compac na tri rpaicheó ie. tigh-
ibh na tri ruao .i. rai fenechair ocu
rai filechta ocu rai leigino ocu do-
neoch po chanair na tri rcola canlai

his sword, so that he broke the helmet and cut the head under it, so that a portion of the brain flowed out, and Cennfaeladh would have fallen

[*caó laí*] *po bích aicepium epia geipe a inolecra cannaiothche* [*recte* *cach n-aiothche*] *ocur inech ba hincapfenta ler ve pob. eó glunraiche fuu ocur po repibhcha aice i caile liubar.*

"No cumas hi in ceathramath buair .i. fer oferaib Ep. ocur fer oferaib alban oo bul capir roir ganluing, gan eachair .i. Dubiaoh mac Damain ocur fer oo gaoelaid."

Translated by Dr. O'Connor thus :

"The place of this book (i. e. where it was written) was Daire Lubran (i. e. the oak grove of Lubran), and its time was when Donnald, the son of Aod, son of Airmire, was king of Ireland; and the person (i. e. the writer), was Cennfaelad, the son of Ailill; and the occasion of composing it was because *Dermot's* ignorance yielded to Cennfaelad's skill at the battle of *Moirath*.

"Three victories were gained there. Congal the Crooked was defeated in his falsehood by Donnald in his truth;* and Subne, the Mad, ran mad on that occasion; and the unskilfulness of Dermot yielded to the skill of Cennfaelad. The cause of the victory of Donnald over Congal, in truth, was this, that falsehood must

always be conquered by truth. The cause of the victory gained by Subne the Mad's turning mad, was, that he lost some poems and narratives, of which others availed themselves after. The cause of the victory of Dermot's unskilfulness yielding to Cennfaelad's skill, was that he (Cennfaelad) was educated at *Tuam-Drecan*, at the meeting of the three roads, between the houses of three learned men—that is, a man skilled in genealogies, and a man skilled in poetry, and a man skilled in difficult reading; and whatever these three schools taught in the day, he, by the acuteness of his intellect, pondered over each night, and whatever was most difficult, he unknotted, and wrote down in his book of hard questions. We must not omit a fourth victory gained at that time, that is, that a man of Ireland, and another man of Albany passed over to the east without a ship of burthen, without a ship of war—namely, Dubdiad, the son of Daman, and another of the Gael."—*Stowe Catalogue*, vol. i. p. 285, *sq.*

This passage is not only incorrectly decyphered from the MS., but also still more incorrectly translated. The following is the true version, as the Irish scholar will

* He observes in a note, that "This seems to have been a religious war between the Christian king Donnald, and the Pagan Congal," an observation which is sufficient to show that Dr. O'Connor never read, or at least never understood, the Battle of Magh Rath.

Ceannfaeladh le Congal 'ra n-ionadh rín, muna ainceb Crunnmael, mac Suibhne, ocu' Maelobair Macá é, ocu' ar na anacul doib' ro ionnaiceatar e co Senach, go Comarba Patraic, ocu' ro ionmpaiceatar fein do congbaíl a g-coda do'n cáit. Ocu' ro ionnaic Senac Ceannfaeladh iar rín go b'ricin Tuama Dheaccan, ocu' do b' aince go ceann m-bliadhna ag a leigear; ocu' do ríl a m'inn cúl ar rír an pe rín, co nac b' ní da g-cluineadh gan a beir do glainmeabhrac

at once perceive :

"The place of this book is Daire Lubran [now Derryloran, in Tyrone], and its time is the time of Domhnall, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, and its person [i. e. author] was Cennfaeladh, the son of Ailill, and the cause of its composition was, because his brain of forgetfulness [*the cerebellum*] was taken out of the head of Cennfaeladh, in the Battle of Magh Rath.

"Three were the victories of that battle, viz., 1. the defeat of Congal Claen [the wry-eyed] in his falsehood, by Domhnall in his truth. 2. Suibhne Geilt's going mad; and, 3. his brain of forgetfulness being taken from the head of Cennfaeladh.

"The cause of the defeat of Congal in his falsehood by Domhnall in his truth, is, that the unjust man is always defeated by the just.

"The reason why Suibhne Geilt's going mad is called a victory is, from the number of poems and stories he left to the amusement of all ever since.

"The reason that the taking of his brain of forgetfulness out of the head of Cennfaeladh is accounted a victory is, be-

cause he was *afterwards* cured at Tusaim Dreacain [Tomregan], at the meeting of three roads between the houses of three learned men, viz., a professor of the Fenechas law, a professor of poetry, and a professor of literature, and whatever the three schools repeated each day he retained through the acuteness of his intellect each night, and whatever part of it he deemed necessary to be elucidated he glossed, and wrote down in a Cailc [?] Leabhar.

"Or that there was a fourth victory, that is, a man of the men of Erin and a man of the men of Alba passed eastward [i. e. to Alba] without a ship or vessel, namely, Dubhdiadh, the son of Daman, and one of the Gaels."

The task of thus pointing out the errors of Dr. O'Connor is very painful, but the Editor feels it his duty always to notice whatever tends to corrupt or falsify the sources of Irish history.

That Cennfaeladh's intellect was improved by losing a portion of his cerebellum in this battle is very difficult to believe on the authority of this story; but the advocates of the modern science of phre-

fallen by Congal on the spot, had he not been protected by Crunnmael, the son of Suibhne, and Maelodhar Macha; and after protecting him they conveyed him to Senach, Comharba, [i. e. *successor*] of St. Patrick^f, and returned to maintain their part of the battle. After this Senach conducted Cennfaeladh to Bricin of Tuaim Dreagan^g, with whom he remained for a year under cure, and in the course of this time his back brain had flowed out, *which so much improved his memory* that there was nothing which he heard repeated, that he had

nology have recorded several instances in which similar changes of character have been produced by injuries inflicted on the head. On this subject hear Dr. Coombe: "A very striking argument in favour of the doctrine that the brain is the organ of the mind, is found in the numerous cases in which changes of character have been produced by injuries inflicted on the head. In this way the action of the brain is sometimes so much altered that high talents are subsequently displayed where mediocrity, or even extreme dulness existed before. Father Mabillon had a very limited capacity in early youth, inasmuch that at the age of eighteen he could neither read nor write, and hardly even speak. In consequence of a fall it became necessary to trepan his skull: during his convalescence a copy of Euclid fell into his hands, and he made rapid progress in the study of mathematics." Dr. Gall mentions also the case of a lad, who, up to his thirteenth year, was incorrigibly dull; having fallen from a staircase and wounded his head, he afterwards,

when cured, pursued his studies with distinguished success. Another young man, when at the age of fourteen or fifteen, was equally unpromising, but fell from a stair in Copenhagen, hurting his head, and subsequently manifested great vigour of the intellectual faculties. Gretry tells of himself, in his *Memoirs*, that he was indebted for his musical genius to a violent blow inflicted on his head by a falling beam of wood. "In one of the sons of the late Dr. Priestley" (says Dr. Caldwell) "a fracture of the skull, produced by a fall from a two-story window, improved not a little the character of his intellect. For a knowledge of this fact I am indebted to the Doctor himself."

^f *Senach, Comharba of St. Patrick*.—He died in the year 610, and the introduction of him here is an evident anachronism.

^g *Bricin Tuama Dreagan*,—now Tomregan, near the village of Ballyconnell, and on the frontiers of the counties of Cavan and Fermanagh.—See Note in the *Feilire Aengus*, at the 5th of September, in the *Leabhar Breac*.

meabhrac aige; doig am an t-aiceart do nio bhoicin do tri rcolaid
do bioo rin do glain-meabhrac aige-rum, gur bo fear tri rcol iapom
Ceannraelaio, mac Oiliolla, gur ab e do aenuadaiio Uraiceart na
n-Eiceep, i n-Doire Lurain ierctain.

Imchurac Congail, no cromurtoir 'mon g-cae i g-criorlae a
rceit uirbeirce, imel-cruaiio, gur triarccoir treona 'na o-topac,
ocur gur muadaiio milio 'na meadon, ocur gur corrgair cupaiio 'na
g-criorlae a rceit, gur bo cumac cnam, ocur ceann, ocur colann,
gac leirg ocur gac laetair inar luaidertair; co o-tarla cuige an
fear borb, baet, ecceilliio, Cuanna, mac Ultain Lam-fada, mac
nig Caeilli na g-cupaio, fir a n-abartar Oirtear an tan ra.
Fairteir Congal re fairrin a coigle ocur a comalta, ocur atbert,
ar oicra an oiberg, ocur ar laeioa an leir-teagar fo vera bairt
ocur buirb do comluao caea um agaid-ri a n-alt na h-uairie ri.
Ni feioim plaeta na fir-laiio duir-ri am, bar Cuanna, airce feiceam-
nair do tabairt ar mac deig-fir no deag-laiio da o-ticrao do ta-
bairt a lai bage le a bunaio ceineoil a n-imargail ar-o-caea. Na
feargairtear tu, iur, a Chuanna, bar Congal, uair no feararra
nac do gnim gairgeio, na o'imluao eeta na eangnaia tangair co
Mag Raet do'n ruatar ra. Ni h-innrcin air-o-nig duir-ri rin do
raioa, bar Cuanna, cio im nac o-tiohraiinn-ri m'feioim caea lem
aime ocur lem air-o-nig. Act cena, ar ura lim-ra airg o'fulang
na gan cunnam le mo cairuib ir in lo bage ra aniu. Ar ann
rin tainic Congal reao an oimio. Do bpuio Cuanna a bonn re
taea ocur re cuig na talman, ocur do cuir a mer i ruaineam na
rleirg rlinn-leitni, ocur tug upcor daina, duaidreao, deag-calma,
agmar, airmeil, urbaioac o'innrairgio Congail, co n-deachao reao
uillinn

^a *Doire Lurain*,—now Derryloran, near
Cookstown, in the barony of Dungannon,
in the north of the county of Tyrone.

Doire Lurain, which signifies the "oak
grove of Luran" (a man's name), is the
name of an old church and townland, and

had not distinctly by heart, and the instruction which Bricin had delivered to his three schools he [Cennfaeladh] had treasured up in his clear memory; so that Cennfaeladh, the son of Oilell, afterwards became a man [i. e. a teacher] of three schools, and it was he that afterwards renewed Uraicept na n-Eges, at Doire Lurain^b.

With respect to Congal, he turned to the battle with his famous hard-bordered shield, and prostrated mighty men in the front, overwhelmed soldiers in the middle, and triumphed over heroes on the borders, so that every spot and place to which he passed was a broken heap of bones, heads, and bodies; until the furious stolid simpleton Cuanna, the son of Ultan, the Longhanded, i. e. the son of the king of Caell na g-Curadh, now called Oirthear, met him. Congal, on seeing his companion and foster-brother, bade him welcome, and said, "Terrible is the malice, and heroic is the muster when fools and madmen are at this moment of time waging battle against me." "It is not the act of a prince or a true hero in thee, indeed," said Cuanna, to "cast reflections on the son of any good man or good hero, who should come to give his day of battle to assist his relatives in the struggle of a great battle." "Be not enraged, O Cuanna," said Congal, "for I know that it was not for martial achievements, or to perform feats of arms or valour thou hast come to Magh Rath on this expedition." "It is not the saying of an arch-king for thee to say so," said Cuanna; "why should I not lend my aid in battle to my tribe and my monarch? But, however, I can more easily bear a reproach than forbear giving assistance to my friends on this day of battle." Then Congal passed by the idiot. *But* Cuanna pressed his foot against the support and the solidity of the earth, and putting his finger on the cord of his broad-headed spear, he made a bold, furious, brave, successful, terrible, destructive shot at Congal, and it passed beyond

also of a parish which is partly in the rony of Loughinsholin, in the county of county of Tyrone, and partly in the ba- Londonderry.

uillinn an pceit comhoir cata, gur toll an lám-gai an luipeac, co n-deachaid ip in arainn, gur bo tpeagdaigt na h-inne uile, co raibe forrac pír da foigien tpe daingen na luirigi ocur tpe compair ocur tpe coimteann a cuipr do'n leat araill. Decair Congal cairir ocur tuc d'a uib gur b'e an oinnid po guin e, ocur po dai ar cumur do-rom an oinnid do marbad ind, acé nar miaó lair fuil oinnide d'fairsin ar a armaid, ocur do leis a laec-arm ar lap, ocur tug teped ocur tpen-tarrang ar an pleig ina friteing gen gur pedartar; ocur tug an dara feact, ocur nochar ped; tuc an tpeap feact a abac ocur a ionatar amac itir a cneap ocur a ceangal cata, ocur cairmugir Congal a bar comdangean cata ocur tuc daingean an cneapa d'urrglaigi an alaó tar diberg gabaid na zona, ocur togbaio a arm do lap, ocur geibead ag agollom na h-oinnid, ocur a re po raio pír: durrán leam, a Chuanna, bar Congal, nac triat tpen-coimreac, no cliaé beapna ced tarlaicc an t-urcor rin dom' timóide; poet leam por nac e an cuingio calma, cat-linmar Ceallac, mac Maicoba, maidir mo corp do ced guin; olc leam por nac é an cuaille cat-linmar Crunnmael, mac Suibne, oir dligear m'fondeargad, uair po optar a atair ar arlac aird-pi Erenn, con aipe rin nac dlig peiceam píoé re palab. Leig ar ale, a Chongail, bar Cuanna, ar cian ata an sean-focal, i g-ceann gac basé a taegal. Ní h-inann rin an, a Chuanna, bar Congal, ocur gnomaréa obloir ailgeanaig, gan aigneab n-daingean, ocur gan ad-bor dom' ceapbad. Tug Congal d'a uib iartain ocur d'a aipe nar bo nig Ulaó na Erenn é a h-aile na h-aengona, tug an oinnid fair; ocur po gaburtar ag á dígail fein co croda, comdana, coimteann ar fearaib Erenn, ag fodbada gaca piri, ocur ag uachabad gaca h-aicmeab,

¹ *Crunnmael, the son of Suibhne.* — was slain by Congal.
Crunnmael, mac Suibhne,—i. e. the son of ¹ *Old is the proverb.*—The Irish writers are so fond of putting proverbs into the mouths of their characters that they scru-

beyond the angle of his great shield, so that the hand-spear pierced the armour of *Congal* and entered his abdomen and pierced all the viscera, so that as much as would kill a man of its blade was to be seen at the other side of his body and of the armour which defended it! *Congal* looked on one side, and observed that it was the idiot that wounded him; and it was in his power to slay him on the spot, but he did not like to see the blood of an idiot on his arms; he laid his heroic weapons on the ground, and made a drag and a mighty pull to draw back the spear, but he failed; he made a second effort, and failed; but in the third effort he dragged out his viscera and bowels between his skin and his warlike attire; and he extended his strong warlike hand and drew his belt to close the wound, and took up his arms off the ground, and proceeded to address the idiot, and said to him, "Wo is me, O Cuanna," said *Congal*, "that it was not a mighty puissant lord, or a hundred-killing champion that sent that shot to destroy me. It grieves me, moreover, that it was not the mighty, many-battled, populous champion, Cellach, the son of Maelcobha, that has to boast of having first wounded my body. I lament that it was not the pillar, numerous *attended* in battle, Crunnmhael, the son of Suibhne¹, that chanced to wound me, for I slew his father at the instigation of the monarch of Erin, so that a debtor might not owe the death of enmity." "Desist, O *Congal*," said Cuanna, "old is the proverb¹ that 'his own danger hangs over the head of every rash man.'" "That is not the same, O Cuanna," said *Congal*, "as *that I should fall by* the deeds of an imbecile idiot without a firm mind, and without a cause for destroying me." After this *Congal* recognized that he was neither king of Ulster nor Erin after this one wound, which the idiot had inflicted upon him; and he proceeded to revenge himself bravely, boldly, and impetuously on the men of Erin, by slaughtering

ple not, as in the present instance, to make opponent, but this is probably from want of skill in the writer.

h-ai-meas, ocur ag diotugas gaca deiġ-ċeineoil; doiġ an po ba tiompugas pannaċ ar ħaimfiachais an riubal rin, ocur po ba bualað moġas ar min-déarais, ocur po ba rgasleas pearċon fir aingis ar tpedais dapaċtaċa, dian-luaimneaċa, ocur po ba tapca-ral mapa muirniġ, moir-geapanaig ar cpuas-gaethais calas, an tocapha teann, tinneapnaċ tuc Congal ar na catais; go nár fás-bas lior gan luat-gul, na áro gan eafne, na maigean gan moir-eapbas, do na ceirib coigeadais bador ina aġas an uair rin, do na h-árais ocur do na h-aimccuib tucurcain porrae; doiġ ar eas po at noċain leir do cōmaiream riġ, ocur ruireas, ocur toireas, cenmoċa amair, ocur anraib, ocur oglais luim, ocur laic leabarta, ocur buirb, ocur basis, ocur buileadais: ced Aed, ced Aedān, ced Iollann, ced Domnall, ced Aengur, ced Donnchad, caega ħrian, caega Cian, caega Conċoban, tpioca Corc, tpioca Flann, tpioca Plaiter;

¹ *Against the strong streams from the land.*—Ar cpuas-gaethais calas.—The word gaoċ or gaet, which is not explained in any Irish Dictionary, signifies a shallow stream into which the tide flows, and which is fordable at low water. It frequently enters into topographical names, as Gaoċ Saile, in Erris, Gaoċ Ruir, near Killalla, and Gaoċ Dóir and Gaoċ Deapa, in the west of the county of Donegal.

² *One hundred Aedhs.*—Ced Aed.—This enumeration of the persons slain by Congal, after having received a mortal wound himself, must be regarded as pure romance; but it is curious as giving us an idea of the names which were most commonly used in Ireland in the time of the writer. Of these names some are still in use as Christian names of men, many are preserved in surnames, but several are entirely obsolete.

The name Aedh, which is translated *ignis* by Colgan, has been Latinized Aidus, Hugo, and Odo, and is now always Anglicised Hugh.

³ *One hundred Aedhans.*—Ced Aedān.—This name, which is a diminutive of the preceding, has been Latinized *Aidanus*, but it is now nearly obsolete as the Christian name of a man, and it does not enter into any surname, as far as the Editor knows.

⁴ *One hundred Illanns.*—Ced Iollann.—This name is now obsolete, though formerly very common.

⁵ *One hundred Domhnalls.*—Ced Domnall.—The name Domhnal has been Latinized Domnaldus, Donaldus, and Danielis, and Anglicised Donell, Donnell, Donald, and Daniel, and it is almost unnecessary to state, that it is still very common in

tering every tribe, thinning every sept, and overwhelming every noble family; and indeed the onslaught made by Congal *and his attendants* on the battalions on this occasion, was like the greedy gathering of summer ravens, or the threshing made by a labourer on small ears of corn, or the letting loose of a truly furious hound among wild and swift herds, or like the pressing of the loud-moaning boisterous sea against the strong streams^t from the land, so that there was not a house left without weeping, or a hill without moaning, or a plain without great loss, throughout the four provinces which were against him at that time, in consequence of the slaughter and destruction which he brought upon them; for, besides soldiers and heroes, youths, warriors, clowns, fools, and madmen, he slew the following number of kings, princes, and chieftains: one hundred Aedhs¹, one hundred Aedhans^m, one hundred Illannsⁿ, one hundred Domhnalls^o, one hundred Aengus's^p, one hundred Donnchadhs^q; fifty Brians^r, fifty Cians^s, fifty Conchobhars^t; thirty Corcs^u, thirty Flanns^v, thirty Flaites's^w;

Ireland as the proper name of a man, always anglicised Daniel.

^p *Aengus's*. — *Ængur*. — This is also still in use, but generally under the Latinized guise of *Æneas*. It was Anglicised *Angus* in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

^q *Donnchadhs*. — *Donnchað*, — has been Latinized *Donatus*, and *Dionysius*, and Anglicised *Donogh*, *Donat*, and *Denis*, in which last form it is still in common use in every part of Ireland, that is, the person who is called *Donnchað* in Irish is now always called *Denis* in English.

^r *Brians*. — *Brían*. — This is the same as the *Brienne* of the Normans; it is still in use in every part of Ireland, but generally Anglicised *Bernard* and *Barney*.

^s *Cians*. — *Cian*, is still in use among
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the O'Haras and a few other families, but always Anglicised *Kean*, which is not very incorrect.

^t *Conchobhars*. — *Concobar*, is still in use, but under the Anglicised form *Conor*, or the Latinized form *Cornelius*. In the old English records it is sometimes Anglicised *Cnogher* and *Conogher*. The late Mr. Banim, in his celebrated novel, writes it *Crohoor*, which nearly represents the corrupt manner in which it is pronounced in the county of Kilkenny.

^u *Corcs*. — *Copc*, is now entirely obsolete as the Christian-name of a man, but its genitive form is preserved in the family name *Quirk*, formerly *O'Quirk*.

^v *Flanns*. — *Flann*, is obsolete as a Christian name, except among very few families,

Flaiter; deic Neill, deic n-Amhlaid, deic n-Aimergin; nai m-bréarail, nai Muirgír, nai Muirgeadaig; oét n-Eogain, oét Conaill, oét Cobtaig; reacht Reochaid, reacht Rídearg, reacht Ríonaig; re bréarail, re baedain, re blaémic; cuig n-Duib, cuig Demain, cuig Diairmata; ceitpe Scalaib, ceitpe Soraib, ceitpe Seachnaraig; tpi Lorcain, tpi Lugaib, tpi Laegaire; dá Eairc, dá Paelan, dá Fionnchaib;

but its genitive form is preserved in the family name Flynn, formerly O'Flynn, in Irish letters O'Flonn.

^u *Flaites's*.—Flaiter, is now obsolete as a Christian name, and it does not enter into any surname as far as the editor knows.

^v *Nialls*.—Níall.—This name is Latinized Nigellus by St. Bernard, in the Life of St. Malachy; it is still in common use as the Christian name of a man, and Anglicised Neale.

^w *Amhlaidhs*.—Amhlaid. — This name, which is written, according to the modern orthography, Amhlaoib, was never in use among the Irish until about the close of the eighth century, when they adopted it from the Danes, with whom they then began to form intermarriages. It occurs for the first time in the Annals of the Four Masters, at the year 851, and its introduction here as a man's name common in Ireland proves that this account of the Battle of Magh Rath was written after the settlement of the Danes in Ireland. The only name like it which the ancient Irish had among them is Amalgaid, but they are certainly not identical, though probably of cognate origin. Both are now An-

glicised Awley in the surname Mac Awley.

^x *Aimergins*.—Aimergin, now obsolete as the Christian name of a man, but retained in the surname Mergin, corruptly Bergin, formerly O'Amargin.

^y *Breasals*.—Bréarail, was very common as the name of a man in the last century, but it is now nearly obsolete; it is Anglicised Brassel, and sometimes Brazil and latterly Basil among the O'Maddens.

^z *Muirgis's*.—Muirgír.—This name was very common among the ancient Irish before the Anglo-Norman invasion; but the present name Maurice seems to have been borrowed from the English, though evidently cognate with Muirgír. It is still undoubtedly preserved in the family name Morissy, which is Anglicised from its genitive form in O'Muirgeara.

^a *Muireadhachs*.—Muirgeadach, i. e. the *mariner*, now obsolete as the Christian name of a man, but its genitive form is preserved in the family name Murray, formerly O'Muirgeadach. It is Latinized Muredachus by Colgan and others.

^b *Eoghans*.—Eogan, which is explained in Cormac's Glossary, the *good offspring*, or the *goodly born*, like the Latin *Eugenius*, is still in use as the Christian name

thes's^u, ten Nialls^v, ten Amhlaibhs^w, ten Aimerghins^x; nine Breasals^y, nine Muirgis's^z, nine Muireadhachs^a; eight Eoghans^b, eight Conalls^c, eight Cobhthachs^d; seven Reochaidhs^e, seven Rideargs^f, seven Rionaighs^g; six Breasals^h, six Baedansⁱ, six Blathmacs^j; five Dubhs^k; five Demans^l; five Diarmaits^m; four Scalaidhsⁿ; four Soraidhs^o, four Sechnasachs^p; three Lorcans^q, three Lughaidhs^r, three Laeghaires^s;

two

of a man; it is Anglicised Owen and Eugene, and Latinized Eoganus and Eugenius.

^c *Conalls*.—Conall, is still in use among a few families as the proper name of a man, but most generally as a surname, though it does not appear that the surname O'Connell is formed from it, that being an Anglicised form of the Irish *O'Conghail*.

^d *Cobhthachs*.—Cobēac, i. e. *Victoricius*, now obsolete as a Christian name, but preserved in the surname Coffey.

^e *Reochaidhs*.—Reocāid, now entirely obsolete.

^f *Rideargs*.—Rīdearg, obsolete.

^g *Rionaighs*.—Rīonarg, obsolete.

^h *Breasals*.—Breapal.—See Note ^v, p. 290.

ⁱ *Baedans*.—Baeōán, now obsolete as a man's Christian name, but preserved in the surname Boyton.

^j *Blathmacs*.—Blatēmac, now obsolete. This name is translated Florigenus by Colgan, Acta, SS. p. 129, n. 3.

^k *Dubhs*.—Duē, i. e. *Black*, is now obsolete as a man's Christian name, but preserved in the surname Duff.

^l *Demans*.—Deaman, obsolete as a man's Christian name, but retained in the surname Diman and Diamond, formerly

O'Deman.

^m *Diarmaits*.—Dīarman, still in use in every part of Ireland. It is usually Latinized Diermitius, and Anglicised Dermot, Darby, and, latterly, Jeremiah, which is the form now generally adopted.

ⁿ *Scalaidhs*.—Scalaid, now obsolete as the Christian name of a man, but preserved in the surname Scally.

^o *Soraidhs*.—Soraid, now obsolete.

^p *Sechnasachs*.—Seacnāpach, now obsolete as a man's Christian or baptismal name, but preserved in the family name O'Shaughnessy.

^q *Lorcans*.—Lorcán, obsolete, but retained in the surname O'Lorcain, which is now always Anglicised Larkin.

^r *Lughaidhs*.—Lugaid, still retained, and Anglicised Lewy and Lewis. It is Latinized Lugadius and Lugaidus by Adamnan and others, who have written lives of Irish saints in the Latin language. It is cognate with the Teutonic name Ludwig, Ledwich; which is Latinized Ludovicus, and Gallicised Louis.

^s *Laeghaires*.—Laegaire, now obsolete as a man's Christian or baptismal name, but retained in the surname O'Laeghaire, which is Anglicised O'Leary.

Fionnchaó; Duban, Deman, Diépeabac, Maenac, Muirgiur, Muirpeabac, Corc, Coirceall, Concobar, Diangur, Domnall, Dinntac, Fergur, Fallomam, Taog, Tuatal, Oilioll, Enna, Inpeactac.

Ír é innrin do rocair lair d'á bpeirim bpuide, ocur d'á éuréug-aó troc, ocur d'á earbaóab ainigni, ar fearaib Érenn, ag diogaíl a en gona orthaib.

Ar fopbad caía pedma, ocur ar cinned caía cruab-comlainb do Congal Claen ír in cat-laéair rin, at conairc rium cúige a áara, ocur a cóich, ocur a cómalta aen tige, ocur aen lepta, ocur aen togbala, dalta réin deitidec, deirb-tairiur do Domnall, mac Aeda, mic Ainmirech, .i. Maelbuin, mac Aeda bratbuillig ben-nain, ocur mar at conairc rium eiribein 'gá innraigib reac caí aréna, atberc na briatra ra: Conair cinnur in muab-macaem mor do Mhuinnecaib ale itir, bar Congal Claen. Re tairdeilb do

^c *Earc*. — Earc, now obsolete, but its diminutive form Earcán is retained in the surname O'h-Earcán, now Anglicised Harkan.

^u *Faelans*. — Faelán, now obsolete as a man's Christian name, but retained in the family name O'Faelán, Anglicised Phelan and Whelan.

^v *Finnchadhs*. — Fionnchaó, now obsolete.

^w *Dubhan*. — Duóán, now obsolete as a man's Christian name, but retained in the family name O'Duóán, which is Anglicised Duane, Dwan, Divan, and very frequently Downes.

^x *Deman*. — Deman. — See Note ¹, *supra*.

^y *Dithrebbach*. — Diépeabac, now obsolete: it signifies a hermit or eremite.

^z *Maenach*. — Maenach, now obsolete

as a man's name, but retained in the surname O'Maenach, which is Anglicised Mainy and Mooney.

^a *Coireall*. — Coirceall, now obsolete as a man's Christian name and surname, but its diminutive form is preserved in the family name O'Coirceallain, which is Anglicised Carellan, Carland, and Curland, and sometimes Carleton.

^b *Diangus*. — Diangur, now obsolete.

^c *Dinnthach*. — Dinntach, obsolete.

^d *Fergus*. — Fergur is still used as the Christian name of a man, and correctly Anglicised Fergus.

^e *Fallomhan*. — Fallomam, now obsolete as the proper name of a man, but retained in the surname, O'Fallomam, now Anglicised Fallon, the O' being generally, if not always, rejected.

two Earcs^f, two Faelans^g, two Finnachds^h; one Dubhanⁱ, one Deman^j, one Dithrebhach^k, one Maenach^l, one Muirghius, one Muireadhach, one Corc, one Coireall^m, one Conchobhar, one Diangusⁿ, one Domhnall, one Dinntach^o, one Fergus^p, one Fallomhan^q, one Tadhg^r, one Tuathal^s, one Oilill^t, one Enna^u, one Innrachtach^v.

Such were the names slain by his onslaught and capture, his overpowering of wretches, and in his spiteful taking off of the men of Erin, in revenging his own wound upon them.

After having finished every exertion, and terminated every hard conflict in that field of contest¹, Congal saw approaching him his friend, companion, and foster-brother of the same house and same bed, and same rearing, the diligent and truly affectionate foster-son of Domhnall, son of Aedh, son of Ainmire, namely, Maelduin, son of the warlike Aedh Beannain, and as he saw him approaching, himself beyond all, he spake these words: "Wherefore does the large, soft youth of the Momonians come hither," said Congal Claen. "To show thee

^f *Tadhg*.—*Tóg*, which is interpreted a poet by the Glossographers, is still in use as the Christian name of a man in every part of Ireland. It has been Latinized Thaddæus and Theophilus, and Anglicised Thady, Teige, and Timothy, which last is the form of the name now generally used.

^g *Tuathal*.—*Tuathal*, i. e. the lordly, now obsolete as the Christian name of a man, but retained in the family name O'*Tuathal*, now Anglicised O'Toole, and sometimes Tuohill.

^t *Oilill*.—*Oilloll*; this, which was the name of a great number of ancient Irish chieftains, is now entirely obsolete as the

Christian name of a man, and it does not appear to enter into any family name. It was pronounced Errill in some parts of Ireland.

^u *Enna*.—*Enna*, now obsolete as the Christian name of a man, but retained in the family name of Mac Enna, generally Anglicised Makenna.

^v *Innrachtach*.—*Inpeachtach*, now obsolete as the Christian name of a man, but retained in the surnames O'h-Inpeachtach, and Mac Inpeachtach, the former of which is Anglicised Hanraghty in the north, and the latter Enright or Inright in the south of Ireland.

¹ *After having finished, &c.*—There is a

do éiuḡ-bá, ocur pe h-imluab h-aimleapa, ocur pe h-innarba h-an-
ma a cuap-irtauab do éuip, in adbaib a n-aiḡéretar uirpe a
h-uile, ocur a h-anféich, ocur a h-ecora uile, in aen inab, .i. ag
dnoc-h-muinnter duabirḡ, dneganca, dicomirclis diabail. Ir ant
rin cibir ocur cetraboir Congal Claen a ḡean ḡlan-aibrenach
ḡáipe, do comraicib a éiclé, ocur a éombalta, ocur atberc na
briatpa do éuilled in tobéime ocur do éormach na tarcairí: Ir
adban áine do t'earcairib, ocur ir damna dngra doc' éairib
ocur doc comraicib in turur tangair, ár ir lúth-clera leinim
gan éeill, no mná ar na meadpad do móri éd duic-riu, buain pe
briatleacaib booba na pe codnaéaib cúrraigéi cupad na cat-laié-
reé-ra; óri doig irat craeb-ra nap craitead pa cno-meap, ocur
irat maeth-rlac nap manpad pe mor-docair; daig ir damra ir
aicnib ianum do muad-ḡairced malla, macaemda maeth-lean-
maigí-riu, gan áḡ, gan accair, gan urcoib, gan fír-duabair, a n-ad-
pad h'arm, na h'peadma, na h'engnuma. Doig ir pe dolb-ḡnimaib
dicléaca dál-ingabala deéca Domnaill do éuadap do cért-clera
comraic-riu, uair da trian duéchuḡa pe dalta á h-epnail na
na h-aideachta, ocur á h-aigned na h-ailemna, ocur á duéchuḡ na
daltaéca boberin.

ḡriatpa baibde, ocur uplabpa amaidi, ocur tuat-ban-ḡlór
tárc-labapta dnoc po tagair, ocur po turcanair, a Chongail
Chlaein, ale, bar e-rium. Ar ir mui pot pubéa tpe meadpad, ocur
tpe micomairli do mallaétnaige; ocur nup ba dú duic-riu in t-aen
duine ir ferr a n-Érinn ocur in Albain, ocur ni h-eab amain, acé
do'n éined éoitcénn cpih-fuinedach ap chena, do éatair ocur do
éainriumad.

chasm here in the vellum copy, and the
matter has been supplied from the paper
one from p. 107 to p. 115 of that copy.

¹ *Reprobate*. — *Ḥpoé*. This word which

is not properly explained in any published
Irish Dictionary, is used throughout this
story in the sense of *wretch*, or one given
up to a reprobate sense.

thee thy final destiny, to expedite thy misfortune, and to drive thy soul from the latent recesses of thy body into an abode where satisfaction will be taken of it for all its evils, ill-debts, and injustice in one place, by the even, terrible, dragon-like people of the Devil." Then Congal burst into a clear, tremendous fit of laughter, at the sayings of his comrade and foster-brother, and he said the following words to add to the insult and increase the offence: "The embassy on which thou hast come is a cause of delight to thine enemies, and of anguish to thy friends, for it is but the dexterous feats of a child without sense, or of a woman after being disturbed by deep jealousy, for thee to attempt to cope with the mighty heroes or the well-arrayed chieftains of this battle-field; for thou art indeed a branch which has not been shaken for its fruit, and thou art a soft twig that has not been hardened by great hardships. For to me the soft, slow actions of thy childhood and boyhood are known; thou wert without *gaining* victory or *inflicting* venom, injury or oppression by thy devotion to thine arms, thy prowess, or thy valour. For indeed thy first warlike feats were imitations of the dark, mysterious, battle-shunning contests of Domhnall, because two-thirds of a foster-child's disposition are formed after the nature of the tutorage, rearing, and fosterage he receives."

"The words which thou hast spoken and argued hitherto, O Congal Claen," said the other, "are the words of a scold, the language of an idiot, and the perverse, woman-like talk of a reprobate¹. And it is I who shall wound thee" in consequence of the insanity and evil tendency of thy wickedness; it is not becoming in thee to revile and traduce the very best man not only in Erin and Alba, but the best of all the men of the western world in general. I therefore delight to meet

¹ *It is I who shall wound thee.* — In the paper copy, p. 116, the reading is *meirí not oingeðae*, i. e. *for it is I who shall check or resist thee.*

éainriomad. Conið aipe rin ir líth lim-ra do éomlann, ocur do éomrac d'raðail, a h-aiði na h-irlabna rin; dóig am, buð arðain gan arim-éornum duic-ríu cobair nó congnomad do éorr 'got' éomfulang, nó do laín 'got' luamairéct, nó h-arim, nó h-engnuma doc' imóiden, dóig no díultat, ocur no dílríget tu-ra do'n turur ra; ocur atberc na briaéra ra.

A Congail, ní éoingeba,
 Cept comlaino paet éomalta;
 T'ercaine ocur t'andlígé,
 Orit bíð buarach bñath-bodba,
 'Got éengal, 'got éuibnéc-ru.
 Uair nír erðir aen maíden,
 Nír luíðir at'laech-imdair,
 Gan earcaine oll-éda,
 Do t'uairlib, do t'aideadaib,
 Do chuillem gan teararðain.
 Ar m'imdair nír erðiu-ra,
 Im lebaíð nír luíðer-ra,
 Gan céð n-óglác n-iméomlaino,
 Do clannaib Neill nept-calma,
 Dom' bñuinuio, dom' beannachao.
 Umum-ra bíð arim-lúipeach,
 Dom' imóiden orut-ru,
 Bennacta na m-buíoine rin,
 Airð-ríð Eñenn t'aide-ríu.
 Tíméll epoch a éainriomad,
 Fuil runn dalta dígelar,
 Ar éanair a Chlaen Chongail.

Cíð tpaét, in té naé clátaíðíð tecurca tailgenn, ocur nar féo-
 rat pat-éomairleða fellram do éur ar céill, ná ar cuibdey, na
 ar

meet thee in battle and combat after the speech thou hast spoken ;
for it will be destruction beyond the defence of arms to thee, that thy
feet should help to sustain thee, or thy hand to guide thee, or thy
arms or valour to protect thee, for indeed they have refused and de-
serted thee on this occasion ; and he said these words :

“O Congal, thou wilt not maintain
A just contest with thy foster-brother ;
The curses, and thy lawlessness
On thee will be as a mighty fetter,
Tying thee, binding thee.
For thou didst not rise any morning,
Thou didst not lie in thy warlike bed,
Without the curses of many hundreds
Of thy nobles and fosterers
Being deserved by thee without reserve.
From my bed I rose not,
In my bed I lay not,
But an hundred warlike youths
Of the strong, valiant race of Niall
Caressed me and blessed me.
About me shall be as armour,
To protect me against thee,
The blessings of this people
And of Erin’s monarch, thy tutor.
About the wretch his own censure will be,
There is here a foster-son to revenge
What thou hast said, O false Congal !”

Howbeit, he whom the instructions of saints did not render gen-
tle, whom the wise admonitions of philosophers could not bring to

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ar comaentaid, ocur ar nár laig lagad na lán-mheirtean ne h-oile na ne h-aithecur dála, ná droch-ghníma dá n-depnaid rím co h-udact na h-uairc rín, ir é áirimis úgdaib na h-ealaðan, co rucad dá trian a taraid o Congal ir in ceirt-inad rín, .i. rir na biog-labaréaib bóðba no canurtar a chaicli ocur a comalta, ic tuba, ocur ic tairlebad a uile, ocur a earcaine, ocur a anbligib ina agaid-rím.

Cid traect, cid h-e Maelduin no fuarait, ocur no foillrigur-tar in faeban-éler peicemnair rín, ir é bpat porzell bennaetan Domnall, a deag-aib, no briathraigeirtar ar á beol, tre crabad, ocur creidum, ocur caein-ghnímaib aird-rig Erenn, no aileirtar h-é; uair ní decaid Domnall ó chpoir gan cromad, na ó ulaib gan impoð, na ó alcóir gan eadarguib.

Supa fath-gleo peicemnair Congail ocur Maeladuín comice rín. Comlann ocur compac na veri verp-comaltad rín inro amach bodepta.

Ir and rín pucrad rím da tren pedg trice, éarm-cruaidi, tñúe-comarétaca taáair i ceirt-comóáil a éeli, map do peithóir ocur do ruataraigibí dā rár-éarb ruamanta, no-érena, ic briuio búraið, ocur ic cruad-comairc comeirgi ar a éeli; ocur no élaeclabair da ceirt-beim éruaidi, comgarra, comóicra, gan fall-pacht, gan rialcaire, gan comfégað comaltair, a ceirt-agaid a éeli, gur beanurtar claidem Congail i cluar aiblinn catbairr a comalta in aen-rirt, ocur in aenfect, co tarraid colg-dér in élaidm ceona 'na éloigenn, gor leoartar in leit-cenn ocur in leit-cluar,

^a According to the account given by the authors.—Ir é áirimis úgdaib na h-ealaðan.—This is another proof that the writer had several accounts of the battle before him.

^o Penitential station. — Uluid, a word

which often occurs in ancient MSS., is still understood in the west of Ireland to denote a penitential station at which pilgrims pray and perform rounds on their knees. The word is in use in Inishmurry, in the bay of Sligo, where it is applied

his senses, reason, or to agreeableness, and on whom no depression or sinking of spirits had come from horror or repentance for the evil deeds which he had committed up to this time, lost on that spot (according to the account given by the authors^a of the treatise), the two-thirds of his vigour, in consequence of the startling and cutting words which his companion and foster-brother had spoken in pointing out and showing against him his evils, his curses, and his lawlessness.

Howbeit, although it was Maelduin that showed forth and exhibited this feat of accusation, it was in reality the influence of the blessing of his foster-father king Domhnall which caused such words to issue from his mouth, in consequence of the piety, faith, and just deeds of the monarch of Erin; for Domhnall never went away from a cross without bowing, nor from a penitential station^c without turning round, nor from an altar without praying.

So far the relation of the recriminating quarrel of Congal and Maelduin. The combat and fight of these two foster-brothers shall next be treated of.

Then they made two powerful, agile, hardy, eager, warlike springs towards each other, as would rush and spring two impetuous, infuriated, powerful bulls to wreak their vengeance and fury on each other; and they exchanged two direct, hard, fierce, vindictive, venomous strokes without treachery, or friendship, or regard to fosterage, right against each other, so that the sword of Congal struck the side of the helmet^p of his foster-brother, and its edge wounded the side of his head and one ear, and hewed his breast and side down to the leather belt of war, so that all the youthful, bright-deeded warrior's side,

to a stone altar surmounted with a stone cross, and on the table of which many round stones are ranged in chimerical order, so as to render them difficult of being reckoned. This word is also understood at Kilgobnet, in the county of Kerry.

^p *Side of the helmet.* — Cluap aoluno caibcapp. — This reference to the helmet would seem to savour of more modern times than the real period of this battle.

cluap, gur leadaip in leat-uct ocur in leat-bpuinne gur in crip coisligi cacha ap n-ichtap, gur ba h-aen bel, ocur gur ba h-aen alad uporlaicti, imaicbeil cnebpuinne in cuilem caem-ghumaigi rin ó n-a ó go a imlino; coná raibe aet a crip coisligi cata ic congail a inne ocur a maetaip ap n-ictap, ap pcaltao a pceit gur in cobpaio moip mebonaig ocur gur in cripiait cruind cengaili cruian-eagarai credúma. Ip and rin po lingiurap in lann limca, lapamain, luae-rintech, lan-taitnemac, .i. claidem Congail, ap a altaib, ocur ap a imdopnnéap tpe mteupcaipai, ocur tpe mteacmaipib a mraip, ocur a mallaetan, peib po imcloipeo aip ip in uair rin, goma h-aipuaip ne h-én ic epai óp bapn bile, a n-in-baio epaig, ne coip a ceilebapca, cruao-lann claidim Congail, i n-aép, ocur i pippamint op a cind, ip in comlann, ocur ip in compac rin.

Cruao-buille claidim Maeladuip impaitep againo ap a h-aicli: ip ann po peolao ocur po pédaiged a claidem comapac compaio pibe o luamaipet láma a tigeipna 'gá tén-imip, ocur ó duépac-taib dilpi, oligtea, deip-deitideca Domnaill 'gá dírguo, ocur 'gá deipugao peac pcat-eapapnaige pceit Congail Claein, no gur dibpaigertap a dóio n-dian-buillig n-deip gá lúitib do'n laech-milio. Do ponpac rum map aen lamao ba laec-mileo ap in laetaip rin: co tappaio Congal cruao-lann a claidim co h-imaclam etapbuap, gor ráio ocur gur pdeipigertap h-i ap a aicli ina h-altaib ocur ina h-imdopnéap, ocur tucurap tpi tpen beimenna do cruao-altaib in claidim do lúepoimittin a lama, d'a n-dinge ocur d'a n-dluéguo i ceann a celi. Tappaio Maeladuip caem-dóit Congail eadapla eadapbuap gan tibriuo ne talmain. Imgabap Maeladuip din, a ina imlaioe ap a aicli, ocur pucapcup leip in lám d'a tógail, ocur dá tairbénaio d'ú Ainmipet co n-apo-plaitib Epenn ime. Ocur map atconapic Congal a caicli ocur a comalta ic triall a tetchio ocur in upo a imgabala, atberp na bpiatpa pa: Ip béim ap

side, from his ear to his navel, was one wide, gaping, awful wound; and that there was nothing but his battle belt confining his viscera and bowels below, his shield having been cleft to the great central boss, and to the circular, red-bordered rim of brass. Then the sharp-flaming, quick-striking, brilliant blade, namely, the sword of Congal, flew from its joints and from its hilt, through the mishap and misfortune of his ill fate and his accursedness, which worked against him at this hour, so that as high as a bird rises from the top of a tree in the season of spring, for the purpose of warbling, so high did the hard blade of Congal fly in the air and firmament over his head in that contest and combat.

Let us next speak of the hard sword-stroke of Maelduin: his death-dealing sword of combat was aimed and directed by the guidance of the hand of its lord, which mightily plied it; and by the lawful and upright worthiness of Domhnall, which aimed and conducted it clear of the sheltering interposition of the shield of Congal Claen, so that it shot his rapid-striking right hand off the sinews of that warlike hero. Both exhibited the dexterity of true warlike champions on this spot: Congal expertly caught the hard blade of his sword in its descent, and thrust and fixed it in its rivets and hilt, and made three mighty blows of the hard knobs of his sword at the sinews of his arms to press and close them together^a; Maelduin caught the fair hand of Congal while it hovered in the air before it could reach the ground. After this Maelduin deserted his post in the conflict, carrying with him the hand, to raise and exhibit it to the grandson of Ainmire and the arch-chieftains of Erin, who were along with him. When Congal perceived his companion and foster-brother preparing to flee from him and to shun him, he spoke these words: "It is treading

^a *To press and close them together*,—i. e. as to stop the blood. The writer should have added that he tied them.

ar incáib na h-átharba, am ale, bar epium, ocur ip diall réo duth-
cúpaib dílii bodépin duit-riu, na h-ábairi, ocur na h-airiúhena rin,
.i. mioncainne mellta, maimeca, moé-imgabala na Muimnech
d'aitéir ocur d'fíir-átharba; uair cío ag Let Cuind do cleéctairiu
do céb-ghímraða, ocur do mebhraigir do mac-éleapa, ip a Let
Mogha do mainoirir do cúibiz do'n comland rin, ocur do'n compac;
dáiz ip céim macaim Muimniz ar a mac-éleapaib a olbdaét, ocur
a énamlaét no fagbair t'inas imlaioi pe h-áituir aen-béime 'r
an imairgí rea. Áét ip rnat-geppað paezail, ocur ip aitéppac
aimpíre dam-ra in duine nár dóiz dom' níchað, ocur dom' nept-
píreagha, dom' fobpa, ocur dom' aimpiugab fá'n íamla rin, ocur
arberc na bpiathra pa: Clód corcain ann po, ale, bar Congal
Claen, aitéppac aimpíre pe h-imclód m'áithéa-ra; paðab po-
gairi d'ógaib aichénur. Cía rin naé comaréta tairbhí éiug-bára
dam-ra ip debaioí pea léoð ma leath-láma ar coll mo cloidim-pea,
mo corcain clópetar! Clód.

Ip and rin no iabrat ocur no innillpetar móir-éata Muimnech
d'éir na h-irgaili rin, ma Maeldúin fá'n uaral, ocur fá'n airb-riú.
ba dímaín ocur ba dítarba dóib-rium rin, uair ba fainne do nár
fégað fori rcát, ocur ba h-eatharbaioi irgaili no raigead ocur po
parraiged co réio, ar n-a poétain. Áét éna, no impcáitertar
rum 'na úpéimcell iat combaíir taeð-rcaslii tul-maela colla na
cupað ar n-a coméuitim. ba h-ingnað, am, na h-ábairi ocur na
h-airiúhena do nío rum; ni poðbaiged fannraigi, ocur ni laiged ar
leat-dáinib, ocur ni dítaigio dponga na daercup-íluaz.

Cío tract, ba díe pine ocur plaitiura do móir-éatharib Muman
ar marburtar Congal Claen d'á n-uairlib, ocur d'á n-airb-maioib
ip in uair rin; gur ob ead áirmit úgðair co nach mo no marburtar

Fir

* *Leath Chuinn*,—i. e. Conn's half, or
the northern half of Ireland.

* *Leath Mhogha*,—i. e. Mogha's half, or
the southern half of Ireland.

treading in the footsteps of thy fathers," said he, "and it is clinging to thy own true ancestral nature thou art, when thou exhibitest these symptoms and tokens, viz., thou dost but imitate and worship the smooth, treacherous, retreating, flying skirmishes of the Momonians; for although it was in Leath-Chuinn' thou didst practise thy first deeds and learn thy juvenile military exercises, it was in Leath-Mhogha' thou hast practised the part thou hast taken in this combat; for the suddenness and speed with which thou hast abandoned thy post of combat in this rencounter in the exultation of thy one successful stroke, is certainly the part of a Momonian youth treading in the path of his early military instructions. But it is the cutting of the thread of life, and a change of time to me, that the person from whom I least expected it should thus attack and mutilate me;" and he said these words: "This is indeed the reverse of triumph," said Congal Claen, "a change of times with my reversed fate; it will be a warning of wisdom to the youths who will recognize it. Who would not recognize an omen of my death in this contest, in the cutting off of my hand after my sword had failed. My triumphs are over! A change," &c.

After this combat the great battalions of the Momonians closed and arranged themselves around Maelduin under the noble and the monarch; but this was idle and profitless for them, for it was the unrespected sheltering of weakness, and it was the interposition in battle which was easily assaulted and subdued, when arrived at. However, they flocked around him until the bodies of the champions were left in side-gaping and headless prostration. Wonderful indeed were the omens and appearances they exhibited, they did not disarm feeble men, nor did they overwhelm the dregs of the army.

Howbeit, the number of their nobles and arch-chieftains slain by Congal Claen at this time was ruin of tribes and of kingdoms to the great forces of Munster; so that authors recount that the men of Erin had

fíri Erenn d'Ulltaib ac cup in cáta rin, iná ro marbbrum do
 Mufinnecaib anuar conice rin; no co facaib rium Cellać, mac
 Mailcaba, ic iarraib, ocur ic iarmoraćt Maelduin, mic Aeda
 benain, d'a fectum, ocur d'a imoiben ar cuindrgleo Congail ip in
 cać-irgail, mar demnigep inoici Domnaill bobein, ar comérigí in
 cáta :

Maelduin ocur Cobtać cain,
 Finncać ip Paelcu, mac Congail,
 no co m-bruptep in cać cain,
 uaim ar comairci Chellaig.

Ip ann rin ro gaburpar gpaín Congal pe compegad Chellaig,
 conać aipe rin ro ferurpar rum fáilti fpi Cellać, do ceannruğad
 in cupać, ocur do trapaćać a trom-fergi; ocur arbert na briatpa
 pa :

Mo ćean Cellać compaćać,
 Cuingić caća cać-laitpēc,
 Cobair clann Neill nept-builleć,
 Ar aćbal ar Ulltaćaib,
 Ar Muig pać na ríğpaibe.
 Ar in tógbail tuapaćać,
 Opm-pa clanna caem Chonaill,
 Fell-fingal ná forbat rum
 Opm-pa á h-aithle m'ailemna,
 Re h-ućt-bruindí h-uí Ainmipeć;
 Ar caipdiur, ar comaltur,
 Léic eadpum ip oll-Mhuimig,
 Co ná bia fáć ppegaća,

Dom'

'The words of Domhnall himself.—Mar This quatrain is quoted from an older ac-
 demnigep inoici Domnaill bo bein.— count of the battle.

had not slain more of the Ultonians during the battle than Congal had slain of the Momonians up to that time, when he saw Cellach, the son of Maelcobha, seeking and searching for Maelduin, the son of Aedh Bennain, to shelter and protect him against the onset of Congal in the combat, as the words of Domhnall himself*, spoken at the first commencement of the engagement, testify :

“*Let Maelduin and Cobhthach, the comely,
Finnchadh, and Faelchu, son of Congal”,
Until the great battle be won,
Be from me under Cellach’s protection.*”

Then Congal was filled with horror at the sight of Cellach, and he therefore bade Cellach welcome to soothe that hero and abate his violent anger, and said these words :

“*My affection to Cellach, the valorous,
Leader of the battle in the lists,
Shield of the mighty-striking race of Nial.
Great is the slaughter on the Ultonians
On Magh Rath of the kings!
On account of their having fostered me,
The fair race of Conall,
Fratricidal treachery let them not exert against me
After my having been nursed
At the very bosom of the grandson of Ainnmire.
For the sake of friendship and fosterage
Leave it between me and the great Momonians,
That they may not have the power of revenge*

After

* *Faelchu, son of Congal.*— Here king some of them were arrayed in deadly enmity against him.—See also Note “, p. 160.

John G. Kelly

Dom' éir acu ar Ulltaíob.
 Ní bíú pepta ag feargúgáð,
 Re clannaib Cuind Ced-áthaiḡ;
 Aítec lium ar luaé-márbur
 Dom' uairlib, dom' aibeáob,
 A n-aimpéir, a n-ercaine
 Fa deara mo dóit-éirrað
 Do mac Aéda anglonnaiḡ,
 Nár fáil neac dom' neit-ḡregra,
 Dá n-anað nem' aitéb-rea,
 D'a éir ní buð aḡuinec
 Mo coicli 'r mo comalta.
 Cibé báir nom' bérura,
 I n-dḡail mo deirb-fálað,
 Ar cáic; ir mo cen Cellach.

Mo cen.

Áct éna, ní h-aircib éarab ar éarab in coma rin éuingiriu,
 a Congail, ale, bar Cellac, áct mað brat-coma. bíðbað d'arlac
 a aimlepa ar a eapcarait. Áct éna ní d'fupraáct ár n-ercapait,
 na d'imluab ar n-aimlepa tancabap Muinnig ir in mār-ḡluaiged
 ra, áct ir d'atcup Ulað ocur d'innapra allmapac; ocur atberc
 na briaéra pa :

Á Congail, na cuindig-riu
 Oim-ra in comab celg-duaibrig,
 Dilriugab ḡluaig paer-Múman,
 Tancabap pa'r toḡaim-ne,
 D'ár cobair, d'ár comóirgiub,
 D' ḡpóitín h-ui Ainmirec,
 I n-aḡaib a eapcarab.
 Ní d'imluab ár n-aimlepa
 Tancabap in turura,

Áct

After me [i. e. *my death*] on the Ultonians,
 I shall not henceforth be angered
 With the race of Hundred-battle Conn.
 I regret the number I have slain
 Of my nobles, of my fosterers,
 It was my disobedience to them and their malediction
 That caused the mutilation of my hand
 By the unvaliant son of Aedh [*Bennan*],
 Who no one thought, would be able to respond to me.
 Had he waited for my response
 He would not be a great slaughterer,
 My comrade and my foster-brother.
 Whatever kind of death shall overtake me,
 In revenging my just animosity
 On all; my affection to Cellach.

My affection," &c.

"Howbeit, this request is not indeed the entreaty of a friend from a friend, O Congal," said Cellach, "but the treacherous entreaty of an enemy pressing his misfortune on his foe. It was not surely to support our enemies, or to effect our misfortune, that the Momonians have come into this great hosting, but to put down the Ultonians and expel the foreigners;" and he said these words:

"O Congal, do not ask
 Of me the treacherous request,
 To oppress the noble host of Munster,
 Who came at our summons
 To assist us, to set us to rights,
 And to aid the grandson of Áinmire
 Against his enemies.
 It is not to effect our misfortune
 They have come on to this expedition,

Áct re luath ár leapa-ne
l caithib, i congalaib.

Α Congail.

Maith, a Congail, ale, bar Cellać, pperail-riu mo comlann-ra, ocur mo comrac boderca, ár ir lón lim-ra ar léigiur d' uairlib ocur d' ardo-maitib Erenn d'poirtceob ocur d'poobúgañ. Acc an ale, bar Congal, ní comatdair ár comrac; tu-ra co h-armda ocur co h-imlan, miri, umorpo, ar n-amleód co leat-lámach. Áct cena, in puil a pír agut-ra cá h-ádbar fár' teiciur-ra éú mað gur tparca? Ní feadar umorpo, a Congail, ar Cellać, áct mun ub ar cairdine in comaltair, no d'uairli na h-aidechta. Leic ar ale, a Chellaig, ar Congal; báigim-ri briaatar cumad ferrdi lim-ra gać lepdacht ocur cać linnairceť do bedír m'aideña ocur m'ailemnóraig porccioi, faen-marba pa colg-déir mo clathim; áct cena, ir uime po techiur-ra ar cach inab d'inab, ocur ar cać cath-latair'na ceili, co n-aiteind m'anfaltar ar uairlib ocur ar ardo-maitib Erenn, uair po feadar nać buð fear aie a palath ná a écpaidi cećtar uaind tar éir comlaind ocur comraic a ceili; ocur muna beind-ri ar n-diceannañ mo dóiti, ocur ar leód mo leath-láma do gebtá-ra mo gleo-ra co gáibteć, ocur m' imlaioi co h-aicbéil. Imgaib in imairg, no ppegair in comrac, a Congail, ar Cellać; Imgébat, a Chellaig, ar Congal, ocur po b'annam lim látar d'á ránac riam d'pácbaíl, ar imgabáil imlaioi, ocur óic ag imbualas inoiti dar m'éiri; comð ann arbert in laio :

Annum lim dul a cath can,
ir óig tar m'éir ag imguin,

ba

▼ *For the future.* — Boderca is used throughout this story, and in the best ancient Irish MSS. for the modern word fearca, i. e. for the future.

But to promote our welfare
In battles, in conflicts.

O Congal."

"Well then, Congal," said Cellach, "respond to my conflict and combat for the future", for I think that I have suffered enough of the nobles and arch-chieftains of Erin to be slaughtered and cut down." "Not so, indeed", said Congal, "for our conflict is not equal: thou art armed and perfect, I am mutilated and one-handed. But dost thou know why I have avoided thee hitherto?" "I do not, indeed, O Congal," said Cellach, "unless it was for the friendship of the fosterage, or for the nobility of the tutorage." "Desist, henceforward from such observations, O Cellach," said Congal; "I pledge my word that the more extensively and the more numerous my instructors and fosterers would be slaughtered, and prostrately mangled under the edge of my sword, the more I would like it. But the reason why I fled thee, from one place to another, and from one spot of contest to another, was that I might satisfy my animosity on the nobles and arch-chieftains of Erin, for I knew that neither of us would be fit to revenge his animosity or enmity after fighting and combating with each other. But had not my hand been mutilated and cut off thou shouldest *now* get from me a dangerous battle and terrible conflict." "Fly the contention or respond to the combat, O Congal," said Cellach. "I will fly from it, O Cellach," said Congal, "though it was seldom with me ever to quit a spot of contention where I happened to come, to avoid a combat, while youths should be contending there after me;" and he repeated this poem:

"Seldom with me to depart from a fair battle,
And youths after me exchanging wounds,

More

"Indeed.—*Clm* is used throughout this story as an expletive, like the Greek *δ*, or of the present day in any of the provinces.

ba menca lim anad ann,
 dar éir cáich a guin galann.
 Nocha n-facaib mī-rī riamh,
 nem' pémiur féin, tair na tair,
 fear mo fheartail, ní fáit fann,
 aet mád Cellac i' Domnall.
 Nīr b' eagal lim Domnall dīl,
 do tpeágoad mo cuipr comgīl,
 adáguir tu-ra, a laic luind,
 i' aipe nor imgabaim.
 Fáth fa tēcim a cat cain,
 tu-ra pec cac, a Chellaig,
 co n-díglaind m'falaib co h-oll,
 ar cách pe n-dul at' comlonn.
 Ba demin lim, a laic luind,
 áit i comrégoair ár n-glúind,
 ciō cia fear uaind buō beō de,
 nác buō dígaltach gneire.
 Conall Gulban nap gab rmaet,
 uaind no geineō in cpaeb-rlat,
 i' aipe rin, ní fáth fann,
 tpeiri ná cac a cáem-cland.
 Ingen rīg Ulaib amra
 maetar Chonaill cat-calma,
 ciō mac reatar puc leir uaind,
 ar n-engnum 'gá claind com-ēruaib.

Engnam

* *Never*.—Nocha is used in the best MSS., and in the spoken Irish language throughout the greater part of the province of Ulster, for the negative ní, which is generally found in modern printed books, and in the spoken language in the other provinces. Nocha generally causes eclipsis, and ní aspiration of the initial conso-

More usual *is it* with me to remain in it
Behind all wounding heroes.

Never^x have I seen

In my own time, east or west,
A man to contend with me,—no silly boast,—
Excepting only Cellach and Domhnall.

I would not fear that the affectionate Domhnall
Should pierce my fair body,
But I fear thee, O valiant hero,
And it is therefore I avoid thee.

The reason that I shun in fair contest
Thee more than all, O Cellach,
Is that I might revenge my spite mightily
Upon all the rest before meeting thee in combat.

It was certain to me, O mighty hero,
That where our efforts would come in collision,
Which ever of us should survive,
That he would not be a revenger of an aggression.

Conall Gulban, who submitted to no control
From us the branching scion sprung,
Hence it is,—no weak reason—
That his fair race are mightier than all others.

The daughter of the illustrious king of Ulster
Was the mother of Conall', the brave in battle,
And though but the son of a sister, he carried away from us
Our valour to his hardy race.

The

nant of the verb which follows it.

^x *Was the mother of Congal.* — In the tract on remarkable women, preserved in the Book of Lecan, fol. 193, it is stated that Indiu, daughter of Lughaidh, was the

wife of Niall of the Nine Hostages, and mother of the two Conalls, and of Eoghan, his sons. This does not agree with the statement in the text.

Engnam Ulað, garð a n-gal,
 epé dúthcúr a ðeg-mátar,
 reác macaib Neill, tair ip tair,
 a Conall glan á Gulbain.

Engnum Conaill, cuing na cat,
 a tá reác cach a Cellaç,
 á buirbi a einéc, cen fail,
 a clannaib cpoða Conaill.

Ip é po gab rim-ra in cat,
 ip in Máirt-ri for Muig Rat,
 clann Conaill mar capaid cloch,
 nem' aḡaid aḡ dích Ulltach.

Rop intoidécta uile,
 do pluag Poðla polt-buðe,
 o'peicem mo ðeabcta riu rin,
 Coibdenaig ocur Fíngin.

Rop intoidécta uile,
 do pluag Poðla polt-buðe,
 o'peicem mo comlaino 'r in cat
 ocur Ceannpaelað pleaðach.

Rop intoidécta uile,
 do pluag Poðla polt-buðe,
 o'peicem mo comlaino gan épað,
 ocur Conall, mac ðaeván.

Doilgi ná gach gleó dib rin,
 opt noça céil, a Chellaig,
 comrac in laic, puc mo lám,
 Maelbuin, mac Aetha ðennáin.

N₁

^a *Conall of Gulban*.—It is stated in an Irish romance, entitled *Eachtra Chonaill Gulbain*, that Conall, who was the youngest of the sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages, re-

The valour of the Ultonians,—fierce their prowess,—
 Through the inheritance of his good mother,
 Beyond the sons of Niall, east and west,
 Existed in Conall of Gulban.*

The valour of Conall, prop in the battles,
 Exists more than all in Cellach,
 From the fierceness of his action, without doubt,
 Among the brave sons of Conall.

It was he met me in the battle
 On this Tuesday on Magh Rath,
 The race of Conall, like rocks of stone
 Are against me destroying the Ultonians.

It would have been worth the while of all to come,
 Of the yellow-haired forces of Fodhla,
 To view my conflict with
 Coibhdhenach and Finghin.

It would have been worth the while of all to come,
 Of the forces of yellow-haired Fodhla,
 To view my combat in the battle
 With Cennfaeladh the festive.

It would have been worth the while of all to come,
 Of the yellow-haired forces of Fodhla,
 To view my conflict without oppression
 With Conall, son of Baedan.

More difficult than any conflict of these,
 From thee I will not conceal it, O Cellach,
 Was the combat with the hero who carried off my hand,
 Maelduin, the son of Aedh Bennain.

My

ceived that cognomen from his having been Benbulbin, a mountain about eight miles
 fostered at Beann Gulbain, now corruptly to the north of the town of Sligo.

Ní h-eað go beán díom' mo láim
engnum mic Aeda bennáin,
aét in aimpeir tugur tall
ar mo deag-aídi, ar Dóinnall.

Ní h-eað go bean díom' mo láim
engnum mic Aeda bennáin,
aét in tí nac raibe ann,
h-ua Ainmirec na n-áid-clann.

Annum.

Imthúra Ulað ocur allmarach imráite agaid. Ar n-díe a n-deg-daíne, ocur ar currúgao a cupao, ocur ar n-erbaio Congail gan fíur a aibeo, ocur gan airiúgao a feoma ag teraragain a tuath ocur ic imdegaíl allmarach, ír ann rin go h-úrmaireao aco-rum ar aen-comairli, gér b'ingao Ulaio ocur allmáraiğ ar cae áirio ír in cae-raí comraic rin d'úrmairi uile ar aen comairli gan iaoao n-imagallma impe do dénam dóib, ocur gan cindeao cruao-caingni ná comairli, ocur ba h-i comairli go cinneao a n-uail, a n-engnum, ocur a n-oglaçur, a muiynn, a mirenec, ocur a mileatachte do claechlud ocur do cepte-imlaie ar elár, ocur ar tíme, ocur ar teichtige, ar miteirt, ocur ar meatachte, ocur ar mi-eangnam.

Nir ba claechlud coimge d'á cupaoib-ríum in claeclod rin, ocur nir ba h-aiteppach báigi na birig na blað-nóir d' Ulltaib na d'allmaracaib in imlaie rin ar ar forbrat in imairec ocur a n-aigti d'impoa rin in aird-rig h-ua n-Ainmirech ar imgabail peann ocur ruao-faeban ocur formnada a fíri-laech, ocur cul-peang dromanna a caémileo do legud co lán-díler ar breith a m-bioao. Ír d' ionaib na h-imgabala rin go aécuireaoar rum a n-airm uprcailde ocur a cathberci comlaino, gur ba h-erair uaémai, uprcailci, ocur gur ba bpoynaé beo, bioagá, booba, ocur gur

My hand was not cut off me

By the prowess of the son of Aedh Bennan,
But through the disobedience which I offered
To my good foster-father Domhnall.

My hand was not cut off me

By the prowess of the son of Aedh Bennan,
But by a person who was not there,
The grandson of Ainmire of great tribes.

Seldom, &c."

Let us now treat of the adventures of the Ultonians and foreigners. After their nobles had been cut off, and their heroes vanquished, and after the disappearance of Congal without knowing his fate, and not observing his exertions in supporting his tribe and protecting his foreigners, they all came to one determination, though it was surprising that the Ultonians and foreigners should, from every part of the field, all come to one resolution without calling a meeting to confer in order to decide on the subject; and the resolution to which they came was to exchange and barter their pride, their prowess, their valour, their puissance, their courage, and their bravery, for feebleness, timidity, flight, ill-fame, cowardice, and dastardliness.

This exchange was no exchange of advantage to their heroes, and this barter for which they gave up the battle was not a barter of luck or prosperity, or fame to the Ultonians and foreigners, viz., they turned their faces from the monarch the grandson of Ainmire, to shun the spears and red blades, and to leave the shoulders of their heroes and the spines of their soldiers entirely at the mercy of their enemies. In consequence of the precipitation of their flight they cast away their arms of defence and warlike head-pieces, so that the great coats of mail, the spears, and the broad shields which the Ultonians and foreigners left on the middle of the field of battle, formed a startling, horrific,

gur ba corair éruaid-ger, cpor-aiolennach cumairc, ocur gur ba
 pal pa toll pal-ghimac fulaing cac laem-luirech, ocur láigheab,
 ocur lebar-rciaé no págrac Ulaio ocur allmapaig an cept-lar na
 cath-laithrech rin. Aét cena, nír éairberc ocur nír tiodacul
 enig na enghama d'Ulltaib na d'allmapachaib epidein; uair cío
 aobal in ébail no págrac, itir eaáib, ocur armaib, ocur edaigib,
 ní h-aici no anrac, ocur ní h-uirre no fuirgebar flaiti Fuimio, na
 glepi Gaedel, na apt-maiti Epenn, aét ir ttempí no triallrac,
 ocur ir tairpíri no éogairret ic tograim Ulaio ocur allmapac.
 Aht cena, no pa toirteé ocur no pa turcáirteé glapláthi ocur
 gillannraio fer n-Epenn d' aobair ocur d' éobáib in armuigi d'
 pagbail o fepair Epenn an poáino a págbála. Dáig ba éoirmerc
 ocur ba éurpíob togruma, ocur tinnenair d' fepair Epenn padb-
 olúr, ocur porleéti na fear porcéide, faen-márb, ina fuat-laigib
 faena, feingcbela, fuataigi, potairra fuitib. Creata ocur cli-
 remnac na laeé leonta laopáta leémarib ic tuitmennaig éiug-ha
 ag iméaircpi aitérgi pa éoraib na cupao. Ocur vin pe h-imao
 na n-eaprac n-uatmar, n-urrcailti, ocur na n-aim n-edapla n-ur-
 thairra ocur na n-or-claídem n-urnoét i n-aicbelib in aimuigi.
 Gur ba feiom pichnumach d'fepair a n-imóin an na h-airlengaib
 ármuigi pe h-ellinaé in aicenta ic tinnenur na togruma, gur ob
 ead a mod co poirpíir Ulaio ocur allmapaig pa feabaib ocur pa
 páraigib Ulaio, niunbao murbell na mepaigeéta ic mall-éimnuigao
 in mor-j-luag ocur tuirleabach in tindenair ic tairmerc na tpen-
 fer. Tige, ocur toirtegal, ocur tuait-belach na troch ic comgabail
 a éeli do éarraéctain topaig in teéio pe h-ellinaé na h-imgabala.
 Cen co bedír na h-abairi ocur na h-airpdeana rin ic aómlled
 Ulaio ocur allmapac, no b'imda ilriana urbaóaca eli ic porao,
 ocur ic potuigao poirine d'á n-ógbaóairb, ocur oirongi d'á n-deg-dai-
 nib, .i. cac aen uaitib an an éuirercan Congal glair ocur geim-
 leca pe cup in caéa, do bábar fein na m-buairigib éarr-tuirleóaca,
 bóóba

and grand heap, and a hard, sharp, confused pile, and a barrier of opposition not easily passable. However, this was no gift or reward of protection, or quarter to the Ultonians and foreigners; for though prodigious was the booty they left behind, consisting of steeds, weapons, and accoutrements, it was not at it the chiefs of the west, the choice of the Gaels, and the arch-chiefs of Erin, stopped or delayed, but they passed through it and flew over it, in pursuit of the Ultonians and foreigners. Howbeit, the recruits [hirelings] and calones of the men of Erin were loaded and enriched with the arms and spoils of the field of slaughter, which they obtained from the men of Erin merely for having gathered them. The men of Erin were impeded in their pursuit by the closeness and extensiveness of the mangled bodies stretched crosswise beneath their feet in feeble, wounded, and loathsome heaps of carnage; by the trembling and quivering of the wounded, mangled, and half-dead heroes gasping in death, and attempting to rise, under the feet of the pursuing heroes; and by the many loathsome, mangled heaps, and by the weapons strewed about, and the gold-hilted, naked, terrific swords, on the horrible field of slaughter, so that it was a work of circumspection for the men to save themselves from the hidden dangers of the field of slaughter, their minds being so bent on the rapidity of pursuit; so that their condition was such that the Ultonians and foreigners would have reached the forests and wildernesses of Ulster, had not the bewildering of the confusion impeded the movement of the great host, and the precipitation of hurry obstructed the mighty men. The thickness, tumultuousness, and misdirection of the wretches keeping one another back, each striving to be first in the retreat, such was their anxiety to shun the battle. And even though these symptoms and indications should not have been confusing the Ultonians and foreigners, there were still many other baleful causes which impeded and obstructed troops of their youths and bodies of their better people, namely, all
of

bóóda, ocur 1 n-gairtédaib gle-duaibreacha gabaid, 'gá porrao, ocur 'gá potugao ne laeáib a leanmana. Caé aen uib uin no belig ocur no uirgerpar á éoragail tindaenair, ocur a cuirleadaig tuaitéib ur-éoraig na h-ingabala, do éuadap 1 cenn a peá co no díra ocur a laéair gan lan-éoirill; uair da m-beit in cruinne co n-a ceérai ar comur caé aen uaitéib-rum do bérao ar porrac ocur ar imarceaid lúio ocur lan-cablaio d'págbail caé aen uir aichno ocur anaichno tara eir. Ro b'ímua uin eirail ocur inn-éomareá maoma ocur miteparaid ar Ulltaib ocur ar allmarachaid ir in uair rin. Ro b'ímua aipeé ocur aró-plait acurum ica porrao ocur ica upgabail ar n-upnaidom a anala air ne teinne na tognuma; ocur fer ic porrao a éarao ocur a éoméneoil 'gá acaé ocur ga eadarguidi im anao ocur im upnaid aiú im deé-ghnín, ocur im deéapao do denam im éobair ocur im éugnomat a éeli. Áct éna ní ar éuir coéaigéi comluinb no fuigleao aen duine acurum é-pein, áct d'págbail a éarao ocur a cuméaig ocur a éoiceli 1 n-iarneir in ármuigi d'á éir, comao ríade no íoiréo fein a fein ocur a porbair na poréicne. Ocur uin no b'ímua fer rosal, ruaióno, rap-indill, raer éneoil gan taireir gan tarao gan eirlemaidecht ne tamnellaib in teéio, ne tairemao na tognuma.

Ocur uin no b'ímua fer gan uiréarbaio céime, na éoiri, na ceir-imééca, leime na laéair, na lan-cablaio, ocur e ic luamain ocur ic lain-eitelaig d'á guailib ocur d'á géé-lamaib ic tarraé-tain toraig in teéio, ne h-aiguir na h-ingabala. Ro b'ímua anó uin aen dáine imba eli gan áireim, gan ainmníúga oipio, ic upérial eiremail co h-ánpata, ocur ic tinoena taraid co eirlemaigéi, cen co ruaradap a preagra im anao acu ná h-imupnaide impu.

Áct éna, ní éainic do glaine a gaíri ná d' fairringe a ind-eleéca aen duine d' fairnéiopeo co h-uilíde ééca ocur ilpiana in ármuigi rin, mine cantá co cumair; uair ni térna d' Ulltaib ar,
áct

of them on whom Congal had put locks and fetters before the commencement of the battle, were now impeded and detained by them as dreadful up-tripping spancels and as truly oppressive snares of distress, for the heroes of the pursuit. But such of them as had separated and escaped from the furious bewildering of precipitation, and from the awkward stumbling in the front of the flight, took to their heels vigorously and left the field unhesitatingly; for should each of them possess the world with its cattle, he would have given it for superabundance and excess of fleetness and speed to leave every one, both known and unknown, behind. At this hour many were the kinds and signs of defeat and prostration on the Ultonians. Many a toparch and arch-chief of them was stopped and captured when out of breath by the rapidity of the retreat; one man stopping his friend and relation, to request and beseech him to halt and make a stand, and display good deeds and vigour, to aid and assist one another; but it was not for the purpose of sustaining the battle that any of them thus addressed the other, but to leave his friend, companion and comrade behind in the slaughter, in order that he himself might advance the farther from the exertion, struggle, and violence of the pursuit. And many a haughty, nobly-dressed, well-attired, nobly-born man was without leap, without vigour, without attire by the faintness of the flight and the oppressiveness of the pursuit.

And also there was many a man who wanted not of step or leg or power of motion, of leap or speed, bounding and flying with his shoulders and arms striving to be foremost in the retreat from the eagerness of the flight. There were many others, however, who could not be reckoned or named valiantly preparing for the deeds of arms, and vigorously preparing for valour, although they did not meet a response, the enemy not having staid or waited with them.

Howbeit, there came not any person who, either by the clearness of his wisdom or extent of his intellect, who could fully relate the
losses

ac̃t ré c̃éð pa Fẽrðomun fuilech, mac Imomain, oc̃ur ní t̃érna ð'
allm̃apaçaið ãpp, ac̃t Dũðiað ðpuí, oc̃ur laeð lán-m̃ap̃ð ina leað-
coir, map fop̃glep Conall Clogaç in mað eli :

Ní é̃éit beo ðo'n t-ϣuağ ðap muip,
tic le Congal, mac Scannail,
ac̃t aen laeð lũðiũp go h-oir,
in p̃ian, oc̃ur aen 'na leað-coir.

^c *Conall Clogach*.—He was a brother of King Domhnall, the hero of this story, and is generally called the *ríg-óinnio*, or royal simpleton. For some account of him,

see Keating's account of the Convention of Druim Ceat, in the reign of Aedh, son of Ainmire.

^u *His leg*.—In the vellum copy no notice

losses and various slaughters of that battle-field, unless it should be given in a summary; for there escaped not of the Ultonians but six hundred men who were under Ferdoman the Bloody, son of Imoman; and there escaped not of the foreigners but Dubhdiadh, the Druid, who swam across to Scotland without ship or barque with a dead hero tied to his leg, as Conall Clogach' testifies in another place:

"There passed not alive of the host over the sea,
Which had come with Congal, son of Scannal,
But one hero who went frantic
Upon the sea, and one fettered to his leg."

is given that the story ends here, but in the paper one the following words, which occur in this place, imply its conclusion:—
Conall Clogach' testifies in another place :
nuige rín, i. e. "so far the stories of the Battle of Magh Rath." — See Note at the end of the Feast of Dun na n-Gedh, pages 86, 87.



ADDITIONAL NOTES.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

NOTE A. *See page 2.*

IN the following pedigree of Domhnall, the grandson of Ainmire, monarch of Ireland, and hero of the Battle of Magh Rath, the Editor has followed the most ancient and most authentic manuscript authorities. Whether the series from Ugaine, or Hugony the Great, down to king Domhnall, is a correct pedigree or not, the Editor can neither assert nor deny; it appears correct, inasmuch as the number of generations, allowing thirty years to a generation, will be found to agree with the period of time stated in Irish history to have elapsed from Hugony to Domhnall. But this is not enough to prove its authenticity, for supposing it to have been fabricated, the forger, if he were acquainted with the average number of years to be allowed for each generation, might have invented names, *ad libitum*, and given them the appearance of a real genealogical series. Whether this pedigree was so forged or not must be ascertained from the authenticity of the documents on which the list of the Irish monarchs rests, and from its general agreement with our authentic history. Indeed if the pedigree of any Irish line be correct it is that of the northern Hy-Niall from the period of the introduction of Christianity, but whether it is to be depended upon or not for the period before Christianity, cannot be satisfactorily proved until the question be settled when the Irish first had the use of letters and the power of committing their pedigrees to writing.

Barnard, Bishop of Killaloe, in his Inquiry concerning the Origin of the Scots in Britain (*Trans. Royal Irish Acad.* vol. i. Antiq. p. 27), has given us the following opinion respecting the authenticity of the Irish genealogical tables:—"The Irish genealogical tables which are still extant, carry intrinsic proofs of their being genuine and authentic, by their chronological accuracy and consistency with each other, through all the lines, collateral as well as direct; a consistency not to be accounted for on the supposition of their being fabricated in a subsequent age of darkness and ignorance, but easily explained if we admit them to have been drawn from the source of real family records and truth."

PEDIGREE OF KING DOMHNALL.

1. Ugaine Mor, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3619, according to O'Flaherty's Chronology.
2. Cobhthach Cael Breagh, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3665.
3. Meilge Molbhthach, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3696.
4. Iarangleo Fathach, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3721.
5. Conlla Cruaidhcealgach, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3734.
6. Olloll Caisfhiacloch, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3738.
7. Eochaidh Foiltleathan, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3768.
8. Aengus Tuirmeach, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3787.
9. Enna Aighneach, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3831.
10. Labhraidh Lorc.
11. Blathachta.
12. Essaman.
13. Boighne Ruadh.
14. Finnlogha.
15. Finn.
16. Eochaidh Feidhleach, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3922.
17. Finn Eamhna.
18. Lughaidh Sriabh-n-dearg, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 65.
19. Crimthann Nianar, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 74.
20. Feradhach Finnfeachtach, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 95.
21. Fiacha Finnola, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 119.
22. Tuathal Teachtmhar, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 130.
23. Feidhlimidh Reachtmhar, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 164.
24. Conn of the Hundred Battles, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 177.
25. Art, the Solitary, monarch of Ireland, succeeded A. D. 220, slain in 250.
26. Cormac Ulfada, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 254.
27. Cairbre Lifeachair, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 277.
28. Fiacha Sraibhtine, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 297.
29. Muireadhach Tireach, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 331.
30. Eochaidh Muighmheadhoin, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 358.
31. Niall of the Nine Hostages, monarch of Ireland, A. D. 379.
32. Conall Gulban, chief of Tirconnell, slain A. D. 464.
33. Fergus Cennfota.
34. Sedna.
35. Ainmire, monarch of Ireland, succeeded in 568, died in 571.
36. Aedh, monarch of Ireland, succeeded in 572, died in 599.
37. Domhnall, monarch of Ireland, the hero of the Battle of Magh Rath, succeeded in 626, and died in 642.

NOTE B. *See page 19.*

Nothing is more certain than that neither Bishop Erc of Slane, nor any of the other twelve distinguished saints of the primitive Irish Church, could have been living at the period to which this story refers, and, as has been already remarked, it is highly probable that some serious errors have crept into the text through the carelessness of transcribers. The Irish writers, however, were in the habit of ascribing acts to their saints centuries after they had passed from this world. For instance, whenever any sudden misfortune had happened to the plunderer of a distinguished Irish church, it was said to have been caused by the patron saint of that church, either through his intercession, or by his spiritual presence in corporeal form. Thus we are told that after Felim Mac Crimhthainn, king of Cashel, had plundered Clonmacnoise, in the year 846, he saw the spirit of Saint Kieran, patron of that church, approach him with his crozier in his hand, of which he gave him a thrust which caused an internal disease, of which the king afterwards died. It is also recorded that in the year 1130 one of the Danes of Limerick robbed the altar of Clonmacnoise of several valuable cups and chalices, and repaired with his booty to Cork, Lismore, and Waterford, with the intention of setting sail for some foreign country, but that Saint Kieran met him wherever he went with his crozier, and caused contrary winds, so that he could not pass out of the country. The story is given as follows in Mageoghegan's Translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise, made in 1627 :—"The Jewells that were stollen from out the Church and Alter of Clonvicknose were found with one Gillecowgan, a Dane of Limbrick, the said Gillecowgan was apprehended by Connor O'Brien, and by him delivered over to the Family [i. e. Monks] of Clonvicknose, who at the time of his arraignment confessed openly that he was at Cork, Lismore, and Waterford expecting for wind to goe over seas with the said jewells. All the other passengers and shippes passed with good gales of wynde out of the said townes save only Gillecowgan, and said as soon as he would enter a Shipp-board any Ship he saw Saint Queran with his staff or Bachall return the Shipp back again untill he was soe taken ; this much he confessed at the time of the putting of him to death by the said Family."

We also read that when the Earl Strongbow was dying, he acknowledged that he saw Saint Bridget of Kildare coming over him in his bed, and that she struck him in the foot, on which she inflicted a wound, which afterwards mortified and caused his death. These and several similar instances would almost induce one to believe that the writer of this story intended his readers to understand that these saints were only spiritually present ; but still it is certain, from the manner in which he speaks, that he supposed these saints to have been living at the period to which he refers.

NOTE C. *See pages 33-42.*

PEDIGREE OF CONGAL, KING OF ULIDIA.

1. Rudhraighe Mor, monarch of Ireland, A. M. 3845, and ancestor of the Clanna Rudhraighe.
 2. Ginge.
 3. Caipè.
 4. Fiacha.
 5. Cas.
 6. Amergin.
 7. Conall Cearnach.—See Annals of Tighernach at A. D. 33.
 8. Irial Glunmhar, king of Uladh, or Ulster, for forty years.—See Tighernach, ad ann. 42-82.
 9. Fiacha Finamhnais, king of Ulster for twenty years.—Ann. Tig. ad ann. 82.
 10. Muiredhach.
 11. Finnchadh.
 12. Dunchadh.
 13. Giallachadh.
 14. Cathbhadh.
 15. Rochraidhe.
 16. Mal, monarch of Ireland for four years, and king of Ulster for thirty-five years.—See p. 329.
 17. Ferb.
 18. Bresal.
 19. Tibraide Tireach, king of Ulster for thirty years.—Tighernach, ad ann. 181.
 20. Fergus Gailine.
 21. Aengus Gaibhnén, king of Ulster for fifteen years.—Tighernach, ad ann. 222.
 22. Fiacha Araidhe, ancestor of the Dal Araidhe, and king of Ulster for ten years.—Ib. ad ann. 236.
 23. Cas.
 24. Feidhlim, king of Ulster for seven years.
 25. Imchadh, king of Ulster for eight years.
 26. Ros, king of Ulster for two years.—Tighernach, ad ann. 248.
 27. Lughaidh.
 28. Eochaidh Cobha.
 29. Crunbadhruighe, king of Ulster for twenty-two years.
 30. Caelbadh, king of Ulidia for fifteen years, and monarch of Ireland for one year, slain A. D. 358.
 31. Connla, who was cotemporary with St. Patrick.
 32. Fothadh.
 33. Maine.
 34. Connla.
 35. Eochaidh, king of Ulidia for twenty years, died in the year 553.—Ann. Tig.
 36. Baedan.
 37. Fiachna Lurgan, also called Fiachna Finn.
-
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 38. Scannlan of the Broad Shield. | Cellach. | Mongan, slain in 625. |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
39. Congal, who fought the Battle of Magh Rath against the monarch Domhnall in 637.

LIST OF THE KINGS OF ULSTER WHO DWELT AT EMANIA, EXTRACTED FROM THE
ANNALS OF TIGHERNACH, AS PUBLISHED BY DR. O'CONOR.

1. Cimbæth Mac Fintain, eighteen years, ante Christum, 305.
2. Eochaidh Faebhur, son of Fedach, twenty years A. C. 247.
3. Conchobhar Roth, son of Cathair, thirty years A. C. 204.
4. Fiachna, son of Feidhlim, sixteen years A. C. 179.
5. Daire, son of Forgo, seventy-two years A. C. 116.
6. Enda, son of Rochadh, five years A. C. 92.
7. Fiach, son of Fadhoon, twelve years A. C. 89.
8. Finnchadh, son of Baicedh, twelve years.
9. Conchobhar Mael, son of Fuith, twelve years A. C. 63.
10. Cormac, son of Lactighe, seventeen years A. C. 48.
11. Mochta, son of Murchuradh, three years A. C. 47.
12. Eochaidh, son of Daire, three years A. C. 44.
13. Eochaidh, son of Loich, three years.
14. Fergus, son of Leide, twelve years A. C. 31.
15. Conchobhar Mac Nessa, sixty years A. C. 25, obiit A. D. 37.
16. Cumscrach, son of Conchobhar, three years.
17. Glaisne, son of Conchobhar, nine years.
18. Irial Glunmhar, the son of Conall Cearnach, forty years A. D. 44.
19. Fiacha Finamhnuis, son of Irial Glunmhar, twenty years, slain A. D. 82.
20. Fiatach Finn, twenty-six years A. D. 108.
21. Elim Mac Conrach, ten years A. D. 128.
22. Mal Mac Rochraidhe, thirty-three years A. D. 135.
23. Bresal Mac Briuin, nineteen years A. D. 162.
24. Tibraide Tiresach, thirty years A. D. 181.
25. Ogaman, son of Fiatach Finn, twelve years A. D. 211.
26. Aengus Gaibhnen, fifteen years A. D. 222.
27. Fiacha Araidhe, ten years A. D. 236.
28. Fergus Duibhdedach and his brothers, four years A. D. 248.
29. Ros Mac Imchadha, one year [or two, according to other authorities] A. D. 249.
30. Aengus Finn, son of Fergus Duibhdedach, one year, 250.
31. Fergus Fogha, the last full king of Ulster, who resided at Emania seventy-five years, 254 A. D., slain 332.

LIST OF THE KINGS OF ULIDIA, OR NOMINAL KINGS OF ULSTER, FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF EMANIA IN 333, TO CONGAL, WHO WAS SLAIN IN THE BATTLE OF MAGH RATH, TAKEN FROM DUALD MAC FIBBIS'S GENEALOGICAL BOOK, p. 528.

These kings, as before observed, though called by the Irish writers kings of *Uladh* or Ulster, possessed only that part of the province extending from Newry to Slemmish, in the county of Antrim, and from Gleann Ríge and the Bann to the sea. On this subject O'Flaherty has written the following observation in his *Ogygia*, Part III. c. 78, p. 372:—"Quamvis autem apud scriptores patrios sic eos vocare moris sit, titulo tenus solum ita appellandi sunt, postquam ab Orgiellæ conditoribus, et non ita diu postea à Nielli Magni regis Hiberniæ filiis universa fere Ultonia manu potenti esset subacta: Rudricia gente, ac Dalíatiachia (Herimonis quidem è sobole, sed Rudriciis a multis sæculis inserta) intra unius pene comitatus Dunensis terminos, quam prisci Ulidiam dixerunt, conclusa. Hinc igitur hujus ditionis principes non Ultoniæ, sed Ulidiæ reges discriminis ergo in posterum dicemus. In quâ ditione pauci e Rudriciis rerum summa potiti sunt præ Dalíatiachiis, qui eam ad ingressum istuc Anglorum, Anno 1177, tenuerunt, sicut pauci è Dalíatiachiis reges Ultoniæ erant præ Rudriciis ante excidium Emanie."

1. Eochaidh, son of Lughaidh, son of Aengus Finn, king of Ulidia twenty years.
2. Crunnbadhruighe, twenty years.
3. Fraechar, son of Crunnbadhruighe, ten years.
4. Fergus, son of Fraechar, forty years.
5. Caelbadh, son of Crunnbadhruighe, fifteen years. He was slain in the year 361, according to the Annals of Innisfallen.
6. Saran, son of Caelbadh, twenty-six years.
7. Eochaidh, son of Muiredhach Muinderg, twenty-four years.
8. Cairell, son of Muiredhach Muinderg, twenty-three years. He flourished in the year 508 according to the Annals of Tighernach.
9. Eochaidh, son of Connla, twenty years. He died in the year 553 according to the Annals of Tighernach.
10. Fergus, son of Aengus, son of Oilill, son of Forgo, four years. He is mentioned in the Annals of Tighernach at the year 554.
11. Deman, son of Cairell, four years. He died in the year 571 according to the Annals of Ulster.
12. Baedán, son of Cairell, twenty years. He died in the year 581 according to the Annals of Tighernach. He made an attempt at recovering the ancient palace of Emania in 578, but was repulsed by the Clann Colla.

13. Aedh Dubh, son of Suibhne, seven years. He was slain, according to the Annals of Tighernach, in the year 588.
14. Fiacha Craich, son of Baedan, son of Cairell, thirty years. He was slain by the Picts in 608.
15. Fiachna, son of Deman, son of Cairell, two years. He fled from the Battle of Cuil Cael in 601, according to the Annals of Ulster, and was slain in the Battle of Ardcoran, in Dal Riada, in the year 627.
16. Congal Claen, son of Scannlan of the Broad shield, was king of Ulidia ten years, when he was slain in the Battle of Magh Rath.

NOTE D. See pages 108 and 109.

THE ANCIENT DIVISION OF TIME.

The smaller divisions of time here given have long fallen into disuse. They are to be found, however, in many of the ancient writers on technical chronology.

In Bede's works (tom. i. col. 117. Basil, 1563) there is a tract entitled *De Divisionibus temporum*, written in the form of a dialogue between a master and his disciple, in which the fourteen divisions of time are thus enumerated—"Atomus, momentum, minutum, punctus, hora, quadrans, dies, hebdomada, mensis, vicissitudo triformis, annus, cyclus, ætas, seculum, mundus:" and for this the authority of Isidorus [Hispalensis] "in Libro Etymologiarum quinto et decimo tertio" is cited.—See the works of Isidore, edited by Fr. Jac. de Breul. Fol. *Col. Agrip.* 1617, Lib. v. c. 29, and Lib. xiii. c. 29.

There is also a dialogue *De Computo*, attributed to Rhabanus, abbot of Fulda, who flourished in the ninth century, published by Baluze, Miscellan. Sacr. tom. i. p. 1, 8vo. Paris, 1678, or tom. ii. p. 62, of the folio edition, edited by Mansi; Lucæ. 1761. In this work the divisions of time are thus given:—"DISCIPULUS. Divisiones temporis quot sunt? MAGISTER. Quatuordecim. DISC. Quæ? MAG. Atomus, ostentum, momentum, partes, minutum, punctus, hora, quadrans, dies, mensis, vicissitudo, annus, seculum, ætas." In the definitions, however, of the relative magnitudes of these parts of time Bede and Rhabanus differ both from each other and from our author.

Bede (col. 119) thus explains the origin of the atom:—"Momentum dividis in duodecim partes, unamquamque partem de duodecim partibus momenti dividis in quadraginta septem partes, quadragesima septima pars, quingentesima sexagesima pars momenti. Sic est atomus in tempore. Si autem colligis simul quadraginta septem duodecies invenies quingentos sexaginta quatuor atomos." That is to say, a moment contains $12 \times 47 = 564$ atoms.

He defines a moment to be the space of time "*quamdiu palpebræ requiescunt*," and he tells us that four moments make a minute, ten minutes a point; five lunar, or four solar points an hour; six hours a quadrant; four quadrants a day.

With Rhabanus, an atom is the 376th part of an ostentum: an ostentum is the sixtieth part of an hour: a moment the fortieth part of an hour, containing one ostentum and an half, or 564 atoms.

A part, so called "*a partitione circuli zodiaci, quem tricenis diebus per menses singulos findunt*," contains two moments and two-thirds, or four ostents, and therefore 1504 atoms.

A minute, "*a minore intervallo, quasi minus momentum, quia minus numerat, quod majus implet*," is the tenth part of an hour, and is therefore equivalent to a part and a half, or four moments, i. e. six ostents, or 2256 atoms.

A point (*punctus*) "*a parvo puncti transcensu qui fit in horologio*," is the fourth part of an hour (in certain lunar computations the fifth), and contains two and a half minutes, three and three-fourth parts, ten moments, fifteen ostents, and 5640 atoms. So that an hour, in the solar computation, contains four points, ten minutes, fifteen parts, forty moments, sixty ostents, and 22,560 atoms.

The quadrant is the fourth part of a day, and a day contains, therefore, twenty-four hours, ninety-six points, 240 minutes, 360 parts, 960 moments, 1440 ostents, and 541,440 atoms.

According to the Irish author the atom is the 376th part of an ostent; an ostent two-thirds of a bratha; a bratha three-fifths of a part; a part two-thirds of a minute; a minute two-fifths of a point; a point one-fourth of an hour; an hour one-sixth of a quarter; and a quarter the fourth part of a day.

So that the day contains four quarters, twenty-four hours, ninety-six points, 240 minutes; 360 parts; 600 brathas; 900 ostents, and 338,400 atoms.

Upon a comparison of these tables it will be seen that the atom of Rhabanus is five times, and the Irish atom eight times the atom of Bede.

It appears also that the *bratha* of the Irish author is in like manner eight times the *momentum* of Bede, which identifies these divisions, the Irish atom being the 564th part of the bratha, as the atom of Bede is the 564th part of the momentum.

The Irish word *bpaēa*, therefore, appears to have relation to Bede's definition of a moment, *quamdiu palpebræ requiescunt*; *bpaēa*, *bpaēfa*, or *bpaēa na pūla*, "the twinkling of an eye," is a phrase still in common use in the south of Ireland: although it is now more generally pronounced *ppeabaō na pūla*, the starting of an eye; *na bi ppeaba na pūla muiē*, "do not be the twinkling of an eye away." This is stated on the authority of Mr. Eugene Curry, who has furnished the following example from an

ancient romance, entitled "The Wanderings of Maelduin's Canoe," copies of which are preserved in the Leabhar na h-Uidhre, and in a vellum MS. in the Library of Trinity College, (H. 2. 16.)

Fóceiríod ar ríaprem him muir nall cormail ríu nél, ocur an bap leó-geoin nír faelrao fein nac in cupac co n-acatar iarrain fó'n muir fo'ib annír dúine cumtaéa ocur tír úlaino, ocur at ciat anmanna mop n-uáemar, biapraíoe h-i cpuno ano, ocur táin o'almaim ocur inoilib immon cpuno im macuairio, ocur fear co n-a arim h'i fappao in épaino co fciat, ocur gai, ocur claiuib. Ámail ac connaircpeoe in n-anmanna móp ut boi ip in cpuno, téit arf fop teéeo fu cétoip. Sinip in t-anmanna a bpaíe uao af in épaino, ocur fupmío a éneo i n-epuim in oaim ba mo do'no almaí, ocur ppengair laip ip in épaino, ocur nor íéneo fo cétoip ppa bpaéao pula.

"They then turn away (from that island) into another sea, which was like unto a cloud, and they scarcely had turned off, as they thought, when they saw in the sea under them fortified mansions and a fine country; and they perceived a great terrific serpentine animal in a tree there, and a flock of cattle, large and small, around the tree, and an armed man near the tree, with a shield, spear, and sword. When they saw the great monster in the tree they immediately retreated away. The monster stretched forth his neck out of the tree, and darting his head into the back of the largest ox of the herd, dragged him into the tree, and immediately devoured him in the *trinkling of an eye*."

The dictionaries do not give the word bpaéa in any of the foregoing forms: but we find bpeab and ppeab, a bounce, a start. Armstrong, in his Gaelic Dictionary, has the word ppab-fuil, a bleary eye, a rheumy eye: also ppiob and ppiobaó, a wink or twinkle of the eye. These words are probably of cognate origin.

It may be observed, that in the system of the Irish author the ostent and the bratha are together equal to a part, or the fifteenth of an hour; and that the ostent is equal to 376 atoms, as in the system of Rhabanus, although the value of the atom itself differs, the Irish atom being eight-fifths of the atom of Rhabanus. It is likewise remarkable that the bratha of the Irish author, like the moment of Rhabanus, is equal to one ostentum and an half; thereby again identifying the bratha with the moment.

Bede makes no mention of the Ostentum in the work which has been above quoted: but in another treatise, *De temporum ratione*, cap. ii., he attributes its origin to astrological speculations, and speaks of it thus:—"Attamen Mathematici in explorandis hominum genitivis, ad atomum usque pervenire contendunt, dum Zodiacum circulum in xii. signa, signa singula in partes xxx., partes item singulas in punctos xii., punctos

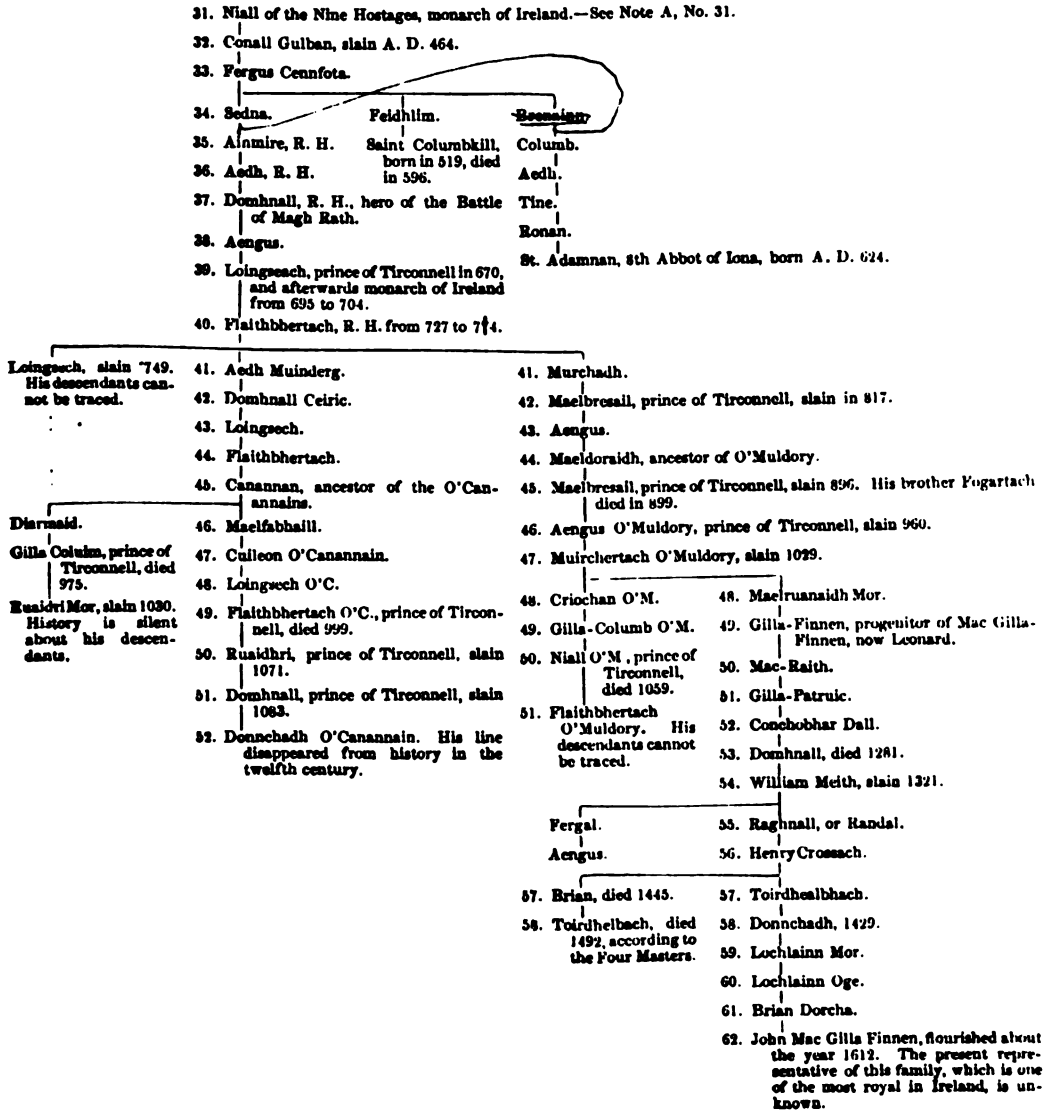
singulos in momenta xl., momenta singula in ostenta lx., distribuunt, ut considerata diligentius positione stellarum, fatum ejus qui nascitur quasi absque errore deprehendatur."—(Opp. tom. ii. p. 53.) See also the Gloss of Bridefurtus Ramesiensis on this Treatise of Bede.

The following Table, exhibiting the several subdivisions of time, in parts of an hour, as they are given by our author, by Rabanus, and by Bede, may be convenient to the reader.

	Irish.	Rhabanus.	Bede.
An atom,	$\frac{1}{13100}$	$\frac{1}{43300}$	$\frac{1}{114800}$
An ostent,	$\frac{1}{73}$	$\frac{1}{60}$
A bratha,	$\frac{1}{33}$
A moment,	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{300}$
A part,	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{13}$
A minute,	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{1}{30}$
A point,	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{3}$
An hour,	1	1	1
A quarter,	6	6	6

NOTE E. See pages 99 and 165.

GENEALOGICAL TABLE, SHOWING THE DESCENT OF O'CANANNAN, O'MULDORY, AND MAC GILLAFINNEN, NOW LEONARD.

N. B.—The Letters R. H. signify *Rex Hibernia*, in this Table. The Numbers are continued from Note A.

NOTE F. See page 99.

TABLE SHOWING THE DESCENT OF O'DONNELL, O'GALLAGHER, O'DOHERTY, AND O'BOYLE.

34. Sedna.—See Note E, No. 34.			
35. Alnmire, R. H. from 568 to 571.		35. Lughaidh, ancestor of the Cínel Luighdeach.	
36. Aedh, R. H. from 572 to 599.		36. Ronan.	
37. Maelcobha, R. H. from 612 to 615. He was the eldest son of the monarch Aedh.		37. Garbh.	
38. Cellach, R. H. from 642 to 654.		38. Cennfaeladh.	
39. Domhnall.		39. Muirchertach.	
40. Donnchadh.		40. Dalach, youngest son, died in 868.	Bradagan.
41. Ruaidhri.		41. Eigneach, died in 901.	Beighell, progenitor of O'Boyle.
42. Ruarcán.		42. Domhnall Mor, progenitor of the O'Donnells.	Garbhan.
43. Galichobhar, ancestor of O'Gallagher.		43. Cathbarr.	Aindíles O'Boyle.
44. Maghnus.		44. Gilla-Christ O'D. died 1038.	Gilla-Brighde O'B.
45. Donnchadh O'Gallagher.		45. Cathbarr O'Donnell.	Cellach O'B.
46. Amhlaobh O'G.		46. Conn O'Donnell.	Conchobhar O'B.
47. Domhnall O'G.		47. Tadhg O'Donnell.	Menman O'B.
48. Diarmaid O'G.		48. Aedh O'Donnell.	Aindíles O'B.
49. Aedh O'G.		49. Domhnall O'Donnell.	Aedh O'B.
50. Maelruanaidh O'G.		50. Donnchadh O'Donnell.	Menman O'B.
51. Nichol O'G.		51. Eigneach, died 1205.	Niall Ruadh O'B.
52. Donnchadh O'G.		52. Domhnall Mor, died 1213.	Toirdelbhach Mor.
53. Fergal O'G.		53. Domhnall Og, died 1264.	Toirdelbhach Og.
54. Aedh O'G.		54. Aedh, 1333.	Niall O'B.
55. Gilla-Comhde O'G.		55. Niall Garbh, 1349.	Toirdelbhach O'B.
56. Nichol O'G.		56. Toirdelbhach an Fhiona, 1418.	Tadhg O'B.
57. John O'G.		57. Niall Garbh, 1437.	Tadhg Oge.
58. Aedh O'G.		58. Aedh Ruadh, 1505.	Toirdelbhach Ruadh O'Boyle, chief of Boylagh, in the present county of Donegal.
59. Ruaidhri O'G.		59. Aedh Dubh, 1537.	
60. John O'G.		60. Maghnus, 1563.	
61. Tuathal Balbh, chief, d. 1541.		61. Aedh, died 1600.	61. Calbhach, died 1566.
62. Sir John O'G.		62. Aedh Ruadh, fled to Spain where he died in the year 1602. His brother Henry was created Earl of Tirconnell by King James I. He was the most powerful, but not the senior representative of Connall Gulban.	62. Conn, died 1583.
63. Cathaoir O'G., 1575.			63. Sir Niall Garbh, d. 1626.
64. Tuathal O'Gallagher.			64. Col. Manus, slain 1646.
			65. Roger, or Ruaidhri, m. Margaret Sheile.
			66. Col. Manus, slain 1736.
			67. Hugh More.
			68. Sir Neal Garbh, d. 1811.
			69. Sir Neal Brag.
			70. Sir Richard Annesley O'Donnell, the present chief of this line.

THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF TIRCONNELL, TRANSLATED FROM THE ANNALS OF THE FOUR MASTERS, WILL SHOW THAT THE O'DONNELLS HAD LITTLE SWAY IN TIRCONNELL TILL AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH IN IRELAND.

- 641. Maelbresail and Maclanfaidh died, and Flann Eanaigh was mortally wounded. These were of the race of Conall Gulban.
- 670. Dungal, son of Maeltuile, chief of Cinel Boghaine, was slain by Loingsech, the son of Aengus, chief of Cinel Conaill.
- 762. Murchadh, the son of Flaithbheartach, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain.
- 749. Loingsech, son of Flaithbheartach, lord of Cinel Conaill, died.
- 817. Maelbresail, son of Murchadh, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by Murchadh, son of Maelduin.
- 868. Dalach, son of Muirchertach, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain. [He was the first person of the O'Donnell line who obtained chief sway in the territory. See A. D. 901].
- 896. Maelbresail, son of Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain in the battle of Saitin by Murchadh, son of Maelduin, lord of Cinel Eoghain.
- 899. Fogartach, son of Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, fell on his own spear, and died in consequence of it.
- 901. Eignechan, son of Dalach, son of Muirchertach, lord of Cinel Conaill, died. [He was also of the line of the O'Donnells].
- 955. Maolcoluim O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, died.
- 960. Aengus O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by the Cinel Conaill themselves.
- 962. Murchertach O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by his own people.
- 965. Maoiliosa O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain.
- 974. Gilla-Coluim O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, went on a predatory excursion into Offaly. In the next year he was slain by Domhnall O'Neill, monarch of Ireland.
- 978. Tighernan O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain.
- 989. Aedh O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, died.
- 996. Ruaidhri, son of Niall O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, died.
- 999. Flaithbheartach O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by his own people.
- 1010. Maelruanaidh O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, was captured by Brian Boru.
- 1026. Maelruanaidh O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, went over sea on a pilgrimage, and died on his pilgrimage the next year.
- 1029. Muirchertach O'Maeldoraidh, was slain by the O'Canannains at Rath-Canannain.

1030. Ruaidhri O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain at the Mudhorn [now the river Mourne, near Lifford] by Aedh O'Neill.
1045. Flaithbheartach O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, died.
1059. Niall O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, died penitently.
1071. Ruaidhri O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by Aengus O'Maeldoraidh.
1075. Donnchadh O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain.
1083. Domhnall O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by his own people.
1085. Murchadh O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, tower of the magnificence, hospitality, and valour of the north, died.
1093. Aedh O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was blinded by Domhnall O'Loughlin, king of Ailech.
1135. Ruaidhri O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, a warlike tower of defence, charitable, and humane, was slain by the men of Magh Itha [Barony of Raphoe].
1153. Flaithbheartach O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was drowned, with his wife Duvcola, the daughter of Turlogh O'Conor, monarch of Ireland.
1156. Aedh, son of Rory O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain by O'Kane.
1160. Two O'Maeldoraidhs were treacherously slain by the Aithcleirech O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, and the same Aithcleirech and two O'Canannains were slain in revenge by the Cinel Conaill.
1165. Maghnus O'Canannain, lord of Cinel Conaill, died.
1172. O'Maeldoraidh was defeated by the Cinel Eoghain.
1184. The monastery of Assaroe [Eas Ruaidh], was founded by Flaithbheartach O'Maeldoraidh.
1197. Flaithbheartach O'Maeldoraidh, lord of Cinel Conaill, Cinel Eoghain, and Oriel, defender of Temur, heir presumptive to the crown of Ireland, a second Conall in valour, another Cuchullin in feats of arms, another Guaire in hospitality, and another Mac Lughach in heroism, died on Inis Samhacoir [now Fish Island, in the river Erne, close to the cataract of Assaroe], on the second day of February, in the thirtieth year of his reign, and fifty-ninth of his age. Immediately after his death, Eachmarcach O'Doherty assumed the chieftainship of Cinel-Conaill, but was slain a fortnight after his inauguration by John De Courcey.
1200. Eigneachan O'Donnell was lord of Cinel Conaill.
1207. Eigneachan O'Donnell, lord of Cinel Conaill, was slain.

NOTE G. See page 122.

O'Farrell, in his *Linea Antiqua*, and M. Lainé, Genealogist to Charles X., in his pedigree of Count Mac Carthy, have taken many liberties with the ancient Irish authorities in giving the descent of the Munster families. M. Lainé actually falsifies his autho-

rities, and O'Farrell writes the following very incorrect remark under Lugadius, whom he makes, without any authority, the eldest son of Oilioll Flannbeg, king of Munster, and fourth in descent from Oilioll Olum, the ancestor of all the nobility of Munster of the Heberian race :

"Lugadius, king of Munster, for three years, had a *younger* brother, Darius Cearb, ancestor to O'Donovan, O'Cuilen of Carbery, &c., and to Criomthan Mor, king of Dalriada, in Scotland, from whom descended many families there. This Lugad had two sons by a second wife, viz., Lughach, from whom the territory of Lughach-Eile is so called ; and Cobhthach, *a quo* O'Cobhthay, of Cuil-seadha."

But O'Flaherty, who is a far better authority than O'Farrell, agrees with the most authentic Irish MSS. in making Lugadius, not the *first*, but the *third* son of Oilioll Flannbeg ; and in making Crimthann Mor, not King of Dalriada in Scotland, but monarch of all Ireland. His words are as follows :

"*Anno* 366. Crimthannus filius Fidachi Heberio è semine Achais Mogmedonio sororio suo Temoriæ extremum diem quietè claudenti substituitur Rex Hiberniæ annis tredecim. Transmarinis expeditionibus in Gallia, & Britannia memorabilis erat : uxorem habuit Fidengam è regio Connactiæ stemmate, sed nullam sobolem reliquit.

"Crimthanni regis abavus Fiachus Latus vertex rex Momoniæ duos Olillos genuit Flannmor & Flannbeg cognominibus distinctos. Olillus Flannmor rex Momoniæ sobolis expers Olillum Flannbeg fratrem adoptavit. Olillo Flannbeg regi Momoniæ supercrant Achaius rex Momoniæ, Darius Kearb, ex quo O'Donnawan, Lugadius & Eugenius.

"Darius Kearb præter Fidachum Crimthanni regis, & Mongfinnæ reginæ Hiberniæ patrem genuit Fiachum Figente, & Achaium Liathanach, ex quo Hyliathan in agro Corcagiensi. Fiacho Figente nomen, & originem debet Hy Figenta regio olim variis principibus celebris in media Momoniæ planicie usque ad medium montis Luachra in Kierrigia ad Australem Sinanni fluminis ripam ; licet hodie hoc nomine vix nota, sed Limericensis comitatûs planities appellata."—*Ogygia*, pp. 380, 381.

There can be no doubt that O'Flaherty is perfectly correct in making Crimthann Mor mac Fidaigh monarch of all Ireland, as his name is found in all the ancient lists of the Irish monarchs, and as it is stated in Cormac's Glossary, under the word *Moğ Éime*, that he also extended his dominion over North Britain and Wales, where he established colonies, and where many places received names from his people. The passage, which is one of the most curious and important in Irish history, runs as follows :

In tan po ba mór nept na n-ḡaeðal for ḡreḡnaib, po panopar Albain eaparra i fepanour : ocur po ficiar cáe dúparr dia áparar leo, ocur ni ba lúgae no ḡreboair ḡaeðil fria muir anair quam in Scotica, ocur do pontá a n-áparar ocur a n-ḡ-óúinte ano ; inoe dicicup ōno tpaoui, .i. Tpeoui Crimicaino Moip, mic Fidaig, ni Épeno, ocur Alban, ocur co muir n-lét ; et inoe ept ḡlaprimbir na n-ḡaeðal, .i.

Cell mop fop bpu Mapa n-lét 7c. Ocur ip oo'n pouno rin ber a ca Dmo map
 Zetain i curib dpetan Copn, .i. Dun mic Liathain; an ip mac in ní ip map ip in
 dpetanip. Ocur no bátan fo'n cumact rin co cianab ian tictain Patrac. De
 rin, tra, no boi Coirpre Musc ac acaigib fap co a muinip ocur co a cairpe.

"At the time that the sway of the Gaels was great over the Britons, they divided
 Albion between them in holdings, and each knew the habitations of his friends; and
 the Gaels did not carry on less agriculture on the east of the sea (channel) than at home
 in Scotica, and they erected habitations and regal forts there: inde dicitur Dinn Tra-
 dui, i. e. the triple-fossed fort of Crimthann Mor Mac Fidaigh, king of Erin, Alba,
 and as far as the Iccian sea; et inde est Glastimber na n-Gaedhal [Glastonbury of
 the Gaels], a large church, which is on the brink of the Iccian sea, &c. And it was at
 the time of this division also that Dinn Map Lethain, in British Cornwall, received its
 name, i. e. Dun mic Liathain; for *map*, in the British, is the same as *mac*. And they
 continued in this power for a long time after the arrival of St. Patrick. It was at this
 time Coirpre Musc was dwelling in the east with his family and friends," &c.

Eochaidh, the first son of Olioll Flannbeg, left no issue, and the line of Fidach, the
 eldest son of Daire Cearb, became extinct in Crimthann Mor, who succeeded as
 monarch of Ireland in the year 366. On failure of issue in the line of Fidach, the
 next heir, according to the law of primogeniture, was, in the line of Fiacha Figeinte,
 the second son of Daire Cearb; and tracing this line, according to the evidence of the
 ancient genealogical Irish MSS., we find it represented in the tenth century by Donovan,
 son of Cathal, chief of Hy-Figeinte, who was slain in a pitched battle, and his allies,
 the Danes of Munster, slaughtered by the renowned Brian Boru, in the year 977.
 But after the death of the monarch Crimthann Mor Mac Fidaigh, this line was sup-
 pressed by the more powerful sept of the Dal Cais, and also by the race of Lughaidh,
 ancestor of the Mac Carthys, and was never after able to regain the sovereignty of
 Munster; but they retained Bruree, the seat of their great ancestor Olioll Olum, and
 the most fertile territory in all Ireland, which, from respect to their high descent,
 they were permitted to possess free of tribute. O'Heerin refers to this fact in his
 topographical poem, in the following lines:

Dual o' O' Donnabáin Dúin Cuirc
 An tír-rí, 'na tír longbuir;
 Da leir gan éor fo'n Máig moill,
 Is na cláir fíor go Shionn.

"Hereditary to O'Donovan of the Fort of Core (i. e. Bruree)

Was this land, as a land of encampment;

He possessed without tribute, the lands along the sluggish river Maigue,
 And the plains down to the Shannon."

I(a), KING OF MUNSTER.

	2. Cormac Cas, K. M.				2. Cian, ancestor of O'Carroll; of Ely-O'Carroll; O'Connor of Glengiven; and several other families.
	3. Mogh Corb.				
	4. Fercorb.				
	5. Aengus Tirech, K. M.				
	6. Lughaidh Menn, K. M.				
	7. Conall Eachluath, K. M. 366.				
	8. Cas.				
dh.	9. Blod, first son.	9. Caisin, second son.	9. Aengus Cinnathrach, fifth son.	9. Aengus Cinn-altinn, ninth son.	
ann.	10. Carthenn Finn, 439.	10. Cartheinn.	10. Bethi.	10. Conall.	
re.	11. Eochaidh Ballderg.	11. Fergal.	11. Senach.	11. Colman.	
erigh.	12. Conall.	12. Achluain.	12. Dima.	12. Gendelach.	
Riastrim.	13. Aedh Caemb, K. M., 571, d. 601.	13. Eoghan.	13. Sleibhin.	13. Ullin, or Cuillin.	
nach.	14. Cathal.	14. Dongal.	14. Cu-alita.	14. Abartach.	
ach.	15. Toirdhelbhach, K. T.	15. Arighal.	15. Fearmac.	15. Core.	
e.	16. Mathghamhain.	16. Coilean.	16. Percingedh.	16. Bernan, a quo Clann Iernain. — See Ogygia, Part III. c. 82.	
ng.	17. Anluan.	17. Macleluithe.	17. Flaon Scriball.	17. Faelchadh.	
the.	18. Core.	18. Sioda an Eich Buidhe.	18. Flannchadh.	18. Conligan.	
a.	19. Lachtna, who built Grianan Lachtna, near Killaloe.	19. Eileidha.	19. Dubhsalach.	19. Sioda.	
s.	20. Lorean, K. M.	20. Eanda.	20. Donn.	20. Donnchadh.	
abholrenn, K. l., slain 937.	21. Cinneide, K. T. d. 954.	21. Aedh.	21. Domhnall.	21. Cam, a quo O'Cuinn, or O'Quinn, chief of Muintir Iernain.	
all, slain 1015. e command- the forces of Desmond at Clontarf in 1014.	22. Brian Borumha, monarch of Ireland, a quo O'Brien, slain at Clontarf, A. D. 1014.	22. Meannma, died 1014.	22. Deaghaidh, or Des, a quo O'Des, chief of Cinesl Fearmaic, in Thomond.	22. Niall, who was henchman to Murchadh, son of Brian Borumha, in the battle of Clontarf, in which both were slain. Annual. Irish.	
hadh, a quo Donohoe.	23. Tadhg murdered 1022.	23. Domhnall.	23. Donnchadh.		
d, 1063.	24. Toirdhelbhach O'B., monarch of Ireland, d. 1086.	24. Cumara, a quo Mac Conmara, or MacNamara.	24. Aicher O'Des.		
adh O'D.	25. Diarmuid O'B., K. T., d. 1120.	25. Domhnall Mac N., d. 1099.	25. Gillagolri O'D.		
s O'D.		26. Cumara Mac N., slain 1135.	26. Muireadhach O'D.		
dh Mac na		27. Niall Mac N.	27. Flaithbheartach O'D.		
		28. Cu-meadhua Mor Mac N., slain 1197.	28. Lochlainn O'D.		
		29. Lochlainn Mac N.	29. Flaithbheartach Finn O'D.		

NOTE H. See pages 226 and 231.

OF THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS AND BANNERS OF THE ANCIENT IRISH.

Dr. Keating has written the following remarks on the banners of the ancient

- of Imar, king of the Danes of Waterford, slain in 995.
25. Amlaff O'Donovan.
26. Murchadh O'D.
27. Aneslia, or Stanislaus O'D.
28. Randal, or Reginald O'D.
29. Amlaff Mor O'D., slain at Kinneigh in 1200. He is called chief of Carberry in the Annals of Innisfallen.
30. Crom O'D., driven from the county of Limerick by the second Baron of Ophaly, and was slain in 1254.
31. Cathal O'D., a quo Clann-Cathail, of age in 1254.
32. Tadhg O'D., chief of his name.
33. Murchadh, Murrogh, or Morgan O'D.
34. Conchobhar, Conor, or Cornelius O'D.
35. Randal, or Reginald O'D.
36. Diarmaid O'D., chief of Clancabhill.
37. Tadhg, or Teige O'D., chief of Clancabhill.
38. Domhnall na g-Croiceann O'D., chief of all the septs of his name, died 1584.
39. Diarmaid O'D., slain at Lathach na n-damh, in 1581, by the celebrated Donell O'Sullivan Beare Ann. Quat. Mag.
31. Aneslia, ancestor of Mac Aneslia O'D., of Kilmacabes. He had four sons, Donnchadh, Walter, Rickard, and Randal, who were the founders of four distinct septs.
31. Lochlainn, a quo Clann Lochlainn.
32. Donnchadh, of Loch Crot.
33. Cathal O'D.
34. Diarmaid O'D.
35. Donnchadh, or Donogh O'D., great grandfather of Donell na Carton O'D., of Cloghtradally castle, chief of Clanloughlin, who died in 1580, and ancestor of Rickard Donovan, now Clerk of the Crown for the county of Cork, and of Alexander Donovan, of Kilrush, Lieut. R.N., the present head of the Clanloughlin.

NOTE II. *See pages 226 and 231.*

OF THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS AND BANNERS OF THE ANCIENT IRISH.

Dr. Keating has written the following remarks on the banners of the ancient Irish, in his notice of the Battle of Magh Rath :

Ir le Domnall, mac Aedá, mic Ainmriú, Rí Eiríonn, eugaó caé Mhuige Raé, aie ap mapbaó Congal Claon, oo bí, 'na Rí Ulaó deic m-bliadhna; agur ap upura a aie ne ap in ptaip-rí o'á n-gairéioir Caé Mhuige Raé, gur ab opuigé in e-innioll, ocur in e-órougáó oo bíóó ap pluagáib Dáoióil ne h-uéé vol a n-iombuálaó, nó oo éor caéa óoib; oir oo bíóó apó-éaoirioé ap in pluaié uile, agur eaoirioé ap gac pluag-buióion oá m-bíóó fá na rmaéé, agur ruaiéiontar a m-brataié gac eaoirig fá leie, ap a n-aieiontaoi gac pluag-buióion oioé reac a éille, leir na Seanádaib, ap a m-bíóó o'faiáib beie oo laéair na n-uapal ne lin caéa nó coin-blióé oo éur o'á éille, ionnur go m-bíóó paóapc pul ag na Seanádaib ap gnuom-apéaib na n-uapal, né fairnéir pírinuig oo ééanaí ap a n-óálaib leat ap leat; agur ap uime rin oo bí a Sheanáio féin a b-foéair Dhomnall, mic Aedá, Rí Eiríonn, ne h-uéé caéa Mhuige Raé. Oir ap m-beie oo Dhomnall ag epiull a g-coimni Chongail, Rí Ulaó, agur iao oo gac leat o' abainn, agur ap b-faicrim pluag a éille oioib, fíapruigíoir Domnall o'á Sheanáio gac meirge go n-a ruaié-iontar fá reac oioé, agur nóctar in Seanáio rin oo, amail léagtar 'ran luoió oap ab eopac "Erean eiaaio caéa Chongail," map a b-fuil in pann fo ap ruaié-iontar Rí Ulaó féin :

Leóman buioé a ppol uaine
Comapéa na Craob Ruaióe,
Map oo bí ag Concúbor caio,
Aea ag Congal ap Congmáil.

Ap iméian ó oo éionnreagaóar Dáoióil gnaéúgáó na ruaiéiontar, ap lorg Chlóinne Israel, lé'r gnaéúigíóó 'ran Egipte iao, né linn Dáoióil oo mapéoinn, an ean oo báoar Clann Israel ag epiall eper in Muir ruaió, agur Maoire 'na apó-éaoirioé oppa. Oá éreie óég imorpo, oo báoar ann, agur ruaiéiontar ap leie ag gac epeib oioé fá rech.

Ereab Ruben, Mandragora, 'n a brataié map ruaiéiontar,
Ereab Simeon, ga, 'n a brataié map ruaiéiontar,
Ereab Levi, an áipe 'n a brataié map ruaiéiontar,
Ereab Juda, leóman 'n a brataié map ruaiéiontar,

Tpeab Isacar, aral, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Stabulon, long, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Neptalem, dealb daim allaiò, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Gad, dealb bainleomain, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Joseph, earb 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Benjamin, faolcu, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Dan, naear neime, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur,
 Tpeab Aser, craob ola, 'n a brataig map fuaieiontur.

Ag ro fuioioḡad an t-peanāide ap fuaieionturaib Cloinne Israel, amail leuḡtor
 a reimlebar Zeacacoin a n-Urnmūmain, 'r an laoiò re ríor:

Aieñe dām ḡac meirge mor,
 Ro baol ag cloinn uallaig Jacob,
 Teapc neac ap a h-aieñe ann,
 Ag a mbeac aieñe a n-anmann.
 Tpeab Rubon, paé por cobair,
 Ro b'é a meirge Manopagair,
 Rae buan ro caie an tpeab the,
 Ro lean fluagh, maith a meirge.
 Tpeab Simeon nír ríor-meirge,
 Aieḡ ga buaibrioḡ oibfeirge,
 Simeon an cñiona cealḡac,
 Um òiona ba oibfearḡac.
 Tpeab Leuhi, luēt na h-Airce,
 Iomò a o-treoiò 'r a o-trom-éáinte
 Du cairḡiò o'á pláinte reo
 Fairḡin na h-Airce aco.
 Meirge ag treibh Iuda aīra
 Saīuail leomain lun-éalma;
 Tpeab Iovair a n-uair feirge
 Sluaḡ òiomair 'ma n-oeirḡ-meirge.
 Tpeab Iracar an ḡloir ḡloin,
 Meirge aice map arain,
 Iomò a ploḡ ḡo n-oeirge n-opeac
 Um an meirge mor mairpeach.
 Tpeab Stabulon na ríall n-ḡlan
 Dealb a meirge long luētmar,
 Ba ḡnac por éonnaib tana

Cac' na longaiḃ lućmāpa.
 Deaḃ oam̃ allaiḃ mair, ġirp, mīr,
 Aġ tpeib̃ Nepcalem neim̃niġ,
 Do'n tpeib̃ po cleaće fpaoc̃ fpeirge,
 Nīr ēapc̃ laoc̃ 'mun luaić-mēirge.
 Meirge aġ tpeib̃ ḡáo a n-ġleo-ġail
 Map̃ oeilḃ bioḡ ap̃ bain-leom̃ain,
 Noćap̃ eim̃ pe fpaoch̃ fpeirge
 ḡac̃ laoc̃ pinñ 'mun riġ-mēirge.
 Meirge map̃ ēapḃ ġo nor̃ neir̃c̃
 Toir̃ aġ tpeib̃ loḡeḃ oir̃oēir̃c̃,
 Suaićnioc̃ na rir̃ioc̃ baḃḃa,
 Añ ciñioc̃ o'ār̃ com̃ap̃oā.
 Tpeaḃ Deniam̃in ġo m-br̃iġ mīr,
 No bioḃ a meirge oḡ meirġiḃ,
 Meirge map̃ añ ḃ-paol̃ ḃ-foġlać,
 Deirge 'r̃ añ ēaom̃ com̃op̃oā.
 Tpeaḃ Dan, ba suaiḃrioc̃ añ oḡeum,
 Oir̃eaće neim̃neć̃ toir̃ġẽ suaićioll,
 Treñ pe aćġoiñ ba oir̃ġ̃ oē,
 Map̃ nać̃raiġ̃ m̃oir̃ a mēirge.
 Tpeaḃ Aġér, nīr̃ ēruaiḃ̃ im̃ ēpaḃ,
 Meirge oap̃ leañ map̃ loćap̃,
 Map̃ aoñ tap̃ aill̃ a toġa,
 Ir̃ cpaoc̃̃ alaīnñ p̃ionñ-ola.
 Ro aīr̃m̃ior̃ talḃ a o-tpeaḃ̃a,
 Ro aīr̃m̃ me a meirgeḃa,
 Map̃ taiõ oionġna na o-tpeaḃ̃ o-će,
 ḡañ a h-iom̃oā a naićne.

The MS. copies of Keating's History differ very considerably in this passage, and it is therefore necessary to say that the foregoing extract has been taken from Andrew M'Curtin's copy (A. D. 1703), in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, compared with the copy written by O'Mulconry, in the Library of Trinity College. The following very elegant translation is from the Latin version of Keating, by Dr. John Lynch, of which a good copy of the original MS. is in the Editor's possession :

"Ex Historiā Muighrathensem pugnam referente, in quā Donaldus inclitum a Congallo Ultoniæ Rege reportavit victoriam, facile percipitur quā aptè Hibernorum

acies instructæ tunc fuerint, cum ad signa conferenda se accingebant; uni enim Imperatori totus Exercitus, et singulis Ducibus singulæ cohortes parebant: In cujuscunque etiam cohortis vexillis ea symbola visebantur quæ indicabant quis cuique cohorti dux præerat. Quapropter seniorum partes erant cuique pugnae adesse, ut res ab utraque gente gestas ob oculos haberent, quo veritas quæ scriptis postea mandarent, exploratior esset. Hinc Hiberniæ Regi in procinctu ad pugnam hanc ineundam posito, suus Antiquarius adstitit, quem ubi exercitus uterque in fluvii ripis utrinque consistens ad mutuum conspectum pervenit, Rex Donaldus suscitatus est quasnam tesseras, quæque hostes signa ferebant, quæ ei sigillatim aperuit Antiquarius, prout eo poemate panditur, cujus initium, *Tæn tæguio cæca Congail*, in quo hoc versu, *Ultoniæ Regis insignia* exprimuntur:

Gesserat in viridi flavum bombice leonem
 Crebroa progenies, Conchauri symbola clari
 Congallus, quæ nunc signis intexta videntur.

Jam inde a tempore quo Gathelici nunc Hiberni dicti, se Israelites in Ægypto sociarunt Gathelo gentis authore adhuc superstite, vexillis suis imaginum varietate decorandis incubuerunt. Israelitarum exemplo, qui per Mare Rubrum Moyse Duce, proficiscentes, variis figuris signa sua distinxerunt, Exercitu ex duodecem tribubus conflato, quorum singulis suâ erat peculiaris tessera in labaris expressa, qua secerneretur a reliquis. Tribus Ruben Mandragoram, Simeon hastam, Levi Arcam, Juda Leonem, Isachar Asinum, Zabulon Navem, Neptali Araneam, Gad Leœnam, Joseph Taurum, Benjamin Lupam, Dan Serpentem, et Asser Olei ramum in signis pro symbolo habuerunt. Priscus quidam poeta, figuras istas vexillis Israelitarum additas versibus Hibernicis complexus est e vetusto Libro depromptis apud Leacoeniam in Ormoniâ reperto: Quorum sensum versus Latini sequentes exprimunt.

Grandia signa mihi sunt nota propago Jacobi
 Quæ præclara tulit, non cuivis cognita vati;
 Mandragoræ prolem Rubin simulacra præibant
 In signis, multum validâ comitante catervâ.
 In labaro stirpis claro e Simone creatæ
 (Qui fuit astutus, prudens, strenuusque tuendo)
 Picta refulsit imago formidabilis hastæ.
 Levitici, quibus est arcæ custodia curæ
 Et quibus est armentorum vis magna gregumque,
 Gestata in signo vobis tulit arca salutem.
 Vexillis sobolis Judæ procera ferocis
 Forma leonis erat, stirpem hanc impunè lacessat

Nemo, lacertorum magno, nam robore præstat.
 Isacara tribus fulgenti fulgida in auro
 In labaris Asini speciem gestabat amœnam
 Agminibus cinctam pugilum quibus ora rubebant.
 A Zabulone sati, quos ornat opima supellex,
 Immensæ ratis, in signis habuere figuram,
 Qui crebrò secuere leves in navibus undas.
 Crure brevi et celeri cervus spectabilis ortæ
 Nephthalemo gentis vexillum pictus adornat,
 Quæ ruit impavida in pugnâ, et signa frequentat.
 Pugnacis Gadæ stirpis vexilla lænam
 Prætulerant: ea gens, pugnæ veniente procellâ
 Non ignava coit sub signis agmine multo.
 Percelebris soboles, a te, Josephæ, profecta
 In signis tauri fortis latera ardua monstrat.
 Bengamina tribus signis melioribus usa
 Quam reliquæ, robusta lupum tulit ore rapacem,
 In sacro labaro, splendente rubedine tinctum.
 Natos a Danno metuendos martius ardor
 Fecit, honoratos cautè prudentia mentis;
 Signifer his pugnâs inituris prætulit anguis.
 Asseri soboli pecus ampla paravit honorem,
 Hæc ubi se bello accinxit, populariter uno
 Assensu ramum sibi tolli curat olivæ.
 Singula signorum, tribuum quoque nomina dixi
 Cætera prætereo populi decora ampla valentia."

Without going so far back as the time of Moses and his cotemporary Gædhal, the ancestor of the Milesians, we may well believe that the Irish people became acquainted with the Old Testament, and consequently with the standards borne by the twelve tribes of Israel, immediately after their conversion to the Christian religion. That standards were in use in Ireland before Christianity, it would now be difficult to prove, and perhaps not fair to deny; but it appears from the most ancient fragments of Irish literature which have descended to our times, that the *meirge*, or standard, was in use at a very early period, and we find references in the lives of the primitive Irish saints to several consecrated banners called by the name of *Cathach*. It does indeed appear from poems written by some of the bards of Ulster in the seventeenth century, that it was then the opinion that the Irish had, even in the

first century, used, not only banners distinguished by certain colours and badges, but also armorial bearings or escutcheons. Thus, Owen O'Donnelly, in his reply to Mac Ward, contends that the *red hand* of Ulster was derived from the heroes of the Red Branch, and that, therefore, it belonged by right to Magennis, the senior representative of Conall Cearnach, the most distinguished of those heroes, and not to O'Neill, whose ancestors, although they had no connexion with those heroes by descent, had usurped the sovereignty of Ulster.

That the ancient Irish, from the earliest dawn of their history, carried standards to distinguish them in battle, is quite evident from all the ancient Irish accounts of battles, but when they first adopted armorial bearings is not perhaps now very easy to prove. The Editor has examined more tombstones in old Irish churchyards than perhaps any one now living, with an anxious wish to discover ancient Irish inscriptions and armorial bearings, but among the many tombs he has seen, he has not observed any escutcheon for a Milesian Irish family older than the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He is, therefore, satisfied that the Irish families first obtained the complex coats of arms which they now bear from England, retaining on the shield, in many instances, those simple badges which their ancestors had on their standards, such as the red hand of O'Neill, the cat and salmon of O'Cathain, or O'Kane, &c. &c., with such additions as the King at Arms thought proper to introduce, in order to complete the escutcheon after the Anglo-Norman system of heraldry, according to the rank of the family for whom the coat was so manufactured.

The Editor has found the following metrical descriptions of the standards of O'Doherty, O'Sullivan, and O'Loughlin, in a MS. in the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, Dublin, No. 208, and he thinks them worth inserting here, as being very curious, though the period at which they were written has not been yet satisfactorily determined. The descriptions of the two former appear to be of considerable antiquity, but that of O'Loughlin savours of modern times, from the language and measure.

Suaíciontaí Uí Dochartaigh.

Tréan éagair caea Cuinn,
 Uí Dochartaigh le cup comluinn,
 A cloídeam cpor-óirí caea
 Or Meirge an áno-ílaea :
 Leoman ií íolap íola,
 Deacair copc na cian-íogla,
 A m-bán-brat íonamail íróill,
 Eagal írom-íoin a íionóil.

“BEARINGS OF O'DOHERTY.

Mightily advance the battalions of Conn,
With O'Doherty to engage in battle,
His battle sword with golden cross,
Over the standard of this great chief :
A lion and bloody eagle,—
Hard it is to repress his plunder,—
On a white sheet of silken satin,
Terrible is the onset of his forces.”

The Editor is sorry to find that the O'Dohertys do not at present bear these symbols in their coat of arms ; the arms of Chief Justice Doherty, as shown in stained glass on a window in the Library of the Queen's Inns, Dublin, are entirely different.

Suaíciontar Uí Shuilleabáin a g-caí Cairglinne.

Do éim tpeán ag teacht 'r an maig
Meirge íleaáta Fhingín uapail,
A íleaá go naéair nime
A íluaá 'na o-tpéóin o-teinnteíge.

“BEARINGS OF O'SULLIVAN IN THE BATTLE OF CAISGLINN.

I see mightily advancing in the plain
The banner of the race of noble Finghin,
His spear with a venomous adder [*entwined*],
His host all fiery champions.”

The O'Sullivans have since added many other symbols, as two lions, a boar, buck, &c., but their neighbours, the O'Donovans, have retained the simple hand, and ancient Irish sword entwined with a serpent, without the addition of any other symbol derived from the Anglo-Norman system of heraldry.

Suaíciontar Uí Locluinn bóinne.

A g-campa Uí Locluinn bob' follur a m-bláé-ápat ríóill,
A g-ceann gac tpoaa, le cornaín oo láéair gleó,
Sean sair éoréac ar g-cornaín le mal go cóir,
Ir anncoir goim fa éoraiá oo ábla óir.

"BEARINGS OF O'LOUGHLIN BURREN.

In O'Loughlin's camp was visible on a fair satin sheet,
To be at the head of each battle, to defend in battle-field,
 An ancient fruit-bearing oak, defended by a chieftain justly,
 And an anchor blue, with folds of a golden cable."

The armorial bearings of the old Irish families, as preserved on their tombs since the reign of Henry VIII., if carefully collected, would throw much light on the kind of badges they had borne on their standards previously to their adoption of the Anglo-Norman system of heraldry, and it is to be hoped that the Irish College of heralds will accomplish this task.

NOTE I. *See page 267.*

The most curious account as yet discovered of the ancient Irish Kerns and Galloglasses, is given by the Lord Deputy St. Leger, in a letter to the king, written from Maynooth, on the 6th of April, 1543. In this letter the Lord Deputy goes on to state that he had heard a report that "His Majestie was about to go to war with France or Scotland, and requests to know the King's pleasure if he should raise a body of native Irish soldiers to attend him in the invasion of France," and he then goes on as follows:

"But in case your Majestie will use their servyce into Fraunce, your Highnes muste then be at some charges with them; ffor yt ys not in ther possibilitie to take that journey without your helpe; for ther ys no horseman of this lande, but he hathe his horse and his two boyes, and two hackeneys, or one hackeney and two chieffe horse, at the leste, whose wages must be according; and of themselves they have no ryches to ffurnyshe the same. And, assuredly, I thinke that for ther ffeate of warre, whiche ys for light scoores, ther ar no properer horsemen in Christen ground, nor more hardie, nor yet that can better indure hardenesse. I thinke your Majestie may well have of them ffyve hundred and leave your Englishe Pale well ffurnysshed. And as to ther ffootemen they have one sorte whiche be harnesssed in mayle, and bassenettes having every of them his weapon, callyd a sparre, moche like the axe of the Towre, and they be named Galloglasse; and for the more part ther boyes beare for them thre darts a peice, whiche dartes they throw er they come to the hande stripe: these sorte of men be those that doo not lightly abandon the ffeilde, *but byde the brunte to the deathe*. The other sorte callid Kerne, *ar naked men*, but onely ther sherts and small coates; and many tymes, whan they come to the bycker, but bare nakyd saving ther shurts to hyde ther prevytes; and those have dartes and shorte bowes: which sorte of people be bothe hardy and clyver to serche woddes or morasses, in the which they be harde to be beaten. And if

Your Majestie will convert them to Morespikes and handegounes I thinke they wolde in that ffeate, with small instructions, doo your Highness greate service; ffor as for gonners ther be no better in no land then they be, for the nomber they have, whiche be more than I wolde wishe they had, onles yt wer to serve your Majestie. And also these two sortes of people be of suche hardeness that ther ys no man that ever I sawe, that will or can endure the paynes and evill ffare that they will sustayne; ffor in the sommer when corne ys nere rype, they seke none other meate in tyme of nede, but to scorke or swyll the eares of wheate, and eate the same, and water to ther drinke; and with this they passe ther lyves, and at all tymes they eate such meate as ffew other could lyve with. And in case your pleasure be, to have them in redynes to serve Your Majestie in any these sortes, yt may then please the same, as well to signifie your pleasure therein, as also what wages I shall trayne them unto. And so, having knowledge of your pleasure therein, I shall endeavour my selfe, according my most bounden duetie, to accomlishe the same. The sooner I shall have knowledge of your pleasure in that behalffe, the better I shalbe hable to performe yt.

“From Your Majesties castell of Maynothe the 6th of Aprill [1543].

“ANTONY SENTLEGER.”

The preceeding extract is taken from a copy made several years since from the original, by James Hardiman, Esq., author of the History of Galway. The document has since been printed, but not very correctly, in the State Papers, vol. iii. Part III. p. 444. London, 1834.

Αἶψα ἡ-α ἐπίστυξάσ le Seaan, mac Eamoinn Oig, mic rein-Eamoinn, mic Uilliam, mic Concubair, mic Eamoinn, mic Donnall U.Dhonnaibáin, an tpeap lá déag do mí Decemiber, 1842. Ὡς ὁ-συριό Dia ἐπίόσ ματὲ ορραινν uile.



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